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FIRST REPORT

OF THE

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1897,

FROM

JANUARY TO JULY 1897.

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PREFACE.

THIS, the Central Executive Committee's **First Report**, deals with the operations of the Fund up to 31st July, 1897. The accounts and statistics, showing the growth and financial position of the Central Fund have been given up to 31st August (*vide* Appendices C and D). It has been found, however, impossible to bring up the Provincial figures of expenditure to a later date than 31st July. On that date, it will be seen (from Appendix E) that the receipts of the Central and Provincial Committees combined (including in the latter subscriptions raised by Local Committees and ear-marked for their own provinces or districts) amounted to R1,60,81,820-6-4 and the expenditure to R90,11,154-6-11, leaving a balance of R6,38,281-10-4 with the Central Committee (including an investment of 6 lakhs of rupees on behalf of orphans, which has been accounted for as expenditure), of R27,96,830-1-5 in the hands of Provincial Committees and Divisional Commissioners, and R36,35,554-3-8 with District Committees, or a total balance of R70,70,665-15-5. Details will be found in Appendix F. The balances include large grants, amounting to R23,55,000, made by the Central Committee on the 20th July.

Part I of the Report gives an account of the formation of the Fund, and of the **Central Executive Committee's** work during the period specified. **Part II**, relating to **Provircial Committees**, contains abstracts and in some cases complete returns of expenditure in the different Provinces, together with notices of the distressed tracts and a statement of the main objects on which the Fund has been expended in each Province up to July 31st. **Part III** deals with the work of **District Com-**

mittees, and of those who actually expended the Fund, and describes the various sub-heads of relief, classified under the four main objects of the Fund, as defined by the Government of India,* and illustrated by extracts from original narratives, showing how the work was carried out in practice and the measures taken to prevent waste or abuse.

At the date when this issues from the Press, expenditure from the Fund is still actively proceeding, as the autumn crops are not yet in ear and famine prices continue to prevail. But it may be hoped that by the 31st October the Famine itself will have much diminished in intensity, and that Government and Charitable Relief operations will, in a great part of the distressed areas, be almost at an end. Confidently trusting that this anticipation will be realised, the Central Executive Committee are now arranging to collect detailed figures of all persons relieved, and accurate accounts of receipts and expenditure from the commencement of the Fund up to the end of October, and they have asked for a report from each Provincial Committee, describing the results of their own work and that of the District Committees subordinate to them during that period. These will form the materials of the Central Committee's **Second** and principal report, which it is hoped will be issued in January, 1898. An account of the provision finally made for orphans who have been left destitute at the conclusion of the Famine will, it is expected, find a place in that Report.

The **Third** and last report of the Central Executive Committee will be very brief, giving final accounts of receipts and expenditure and of the disposal of any balances that may remain. They trust that circumstances will admit of its being issued in the spring of 1898.

* See page 3 of Report.

The present report is now submitted, because more than one-half of the Fund has been actually expended, and the Central Executive Committee desire to lose no time in placing before the General Committee and the subscribers some account of the work that has been done. Its appearance has been slightly delayed, owing to the late receipt of some of the Provincial accounts.

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FIRST REPORT

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JANUARY TO JULY 1897.

PART I.

THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Introductory.

CONSEQUENT on the premature cessation of the annual rains at the end of August 1896, the principal or autumn crops failed over large tracts of India, the prices of food-grains rose to double the ordinary rate, and grain-riots occurred in parts of the country. The Famine Commission laid down that when the whole outturn of the year is diminished to 25 per cent.* of a full crop, it may be taken as certain that intense famine will prevail and that prices of food-grains will rise generally to three times their ordinary amount.† Judged by these standards it became apparent that famine was imminent over an unprecedentedly large portion of the Indian continent, and that in certain tracts where there had been famine also in the year 1895, or where a succession of short crops for several years past had greatly reduced the resources of the people and special measures for relief had been undertaken from time to time, the coming famine would be of an unusually severe type. Since the great famine in the Deccan and Mysore, in 1876-77, the Government of India had systematically carried out a series of protective railways through the areas most liable to scarcity, so that the danger of food-supply running short was not apprehended. Moreover,

* *Report of the Indian Famine Commission*—C.-2591, Eyre and Spottiswoode, Printers to Her Majesty, 1880.

† In this famine, owing to the extension of railways, although prices in many parts have more than doubled the normal, they have very seldom gone up to three times the ordinary price. A statement of famine and normal prices will be found in Appendix G, page 156.

in accordance with the Famine Commission's recommendations, the organisation for dealing with famines had everywhere been elaborated and systematised and the duties of every one concerned with them laid down in precise Famine Codes, on the principle enunciated by the Famine Commission, that "it is a paramount duty of the State to give all practical assistance to the people in time of famine and to devote all its available resources to this end, and this duty is emphasised by the fact that in India the Government stands in the place of landlord to the agriculturists, who form the great mass of the population." In every province lists of works to give employment to the able-bodied had been carefully drawn up and revised from time to time, as well as clear and precise regulations for the gratuitous relief of the weak, the infirm and aged. Consequently all was ready, and it was only a question for the Local Governments to decide when the distress was sufficiently acute to initiate active relief. No time, indeed, was lost, the present policy being to afford employment or food in good time, before the people have begun to suffer physically from the dearth. Everywhere a commencement was made in the worst affected districts first, and as time progressed the measures of relief were extended to all parts where the people were seriously suffering. On the 5th of June 1897, the number of persons being relieved by the Government were as follows :—

Provinces.	Famine-affected area in square miles.	Population.	Persons on Relief Works.	Persons on gratuitous relief.	Total.
Madras . .	60,879	10,477,135	354,097	94,664	448,761
Bombay . .	58,327	10,773,243	316,000	36,770	352,770
Bengal . .	64,777	29,748,363	425,023	420,462	845,485
North-Western Provs. and Oudh	78,060	37,544,014	1,143,089	386,286	1,529,375
Punjab . . .	37,934	9,281,524	83,543	15,401	98,944
Central Provinces .	88,643	10,784,294	561,338	115,396	676,734
Burma . . .	12,287	775,072	12,464	3,152	15,616
Berar . . .	17,717	2,897,040	25,610	4,688	30,298
Hyderabad . .	27,599	3,748,370	24,024	1,403	25,427
Central India .	47,396	6,728,010	154,783	23,585	178,368
Rajputana . .	83,618	5,408,432	15,310	7,111	22,421
Grand total for all Provinces .	575,237	128,185,497	3,115,281	1,108,918	4,224,199

Note.—The figures in the second and third columns occasionally include areas and populations of portions of districts which are not so affected by famine as to require relief. They are taken from a return issued by the Government of India on 29th June 1897. An abstract showing the numbers of persons on Government relief from January to July will be found in Appendix H, page 161.

The Famine Commission in paragraph 188 of their Report expressed the opinion that when Government made efficient arrangements for relieving the famine-stricken, there was no reason for appealing to the public to aid the Government by contributions, but that charitable assistance should be welcomed and encouraged for certain purposes. These purposes and the policy of the Government of India in regard to private charity may be described in the Government's own words* :—

The Charitable Relief Fund.

The Government policy.

"Government fully accepts general responsibility for saving the lives of the people in tracts in which famine prevails; and it is essential that private charity, while working side by side with it, should not interfere with or overlap the operations which are organised for this purpose. There is, however, ample scope for its exercise in supplementing these operations, mitigating suffering, and in relieving distress which falls just short of absolute destitution. Especially, private contributions might usefully be expended on the following objects :—

"Firstly: *in supplementing the subsistence ration which alone is provided from public funds, by the addition of small comforts, whether of food or of clothing, for the aged or infirm, for patients in hospitals, for children and the like.*"

"As guardian of the public purse, and in view of the magnitude of the calamity, Government is obliged to limit its assistance to what is absolutely necessary for the preservation of life."

"Secondly: *in providing for the maintenance of orphans.*"

"Every famine leaves behind it a number of waifs who have lost or become separated from those who should be responsible for them and for whose maintenance it is necessary to provide till they are of an age to support themselves."

"Thirdly: *in relieving the numerous poor but respectable persons who will endure almost any privation rather than apply for Government relief, accompanied as it must be by official enquiry into, and by some kind of test of the reality of, the destitution which is to be relieved.*"

"The feeling of the sacredness of the "purdah" or domestic privacy is intensely strong in India; and it is most difficult for any official organisation to reach, or even to ascertain with certainty the existence of distress of this nature."

"Fourthly: *In restoring to their original position, when acute distress is subsiding those who have lost their all in the struggle, and in giving them a fresh start in life.*"

"The peasant cultivator may often thus be saved from losing

* See correspondence with the Secretary of State for India, published in the *Gazette of India*, January 9th, 1897 (Appendix A, page 109).

his holding through sheer inability to cultivate it, and from sinking to the position of a day labourer."

Sir John Woodburn's speech.

On October 15th Sir John Woodburn, the Member of the Government in charge of the Department which deals with Famine affairs, made a statement in Council as to the consequences anticipated from the failure of the rains, and the manner in which the Government proposed to meet them. The Viceroy's speech on this occasion contained a reference to the charitable co-operation of the public, which had already begun in certain places, and explained the attitude of the Government in welcoming such assistance.

The Viceroy welcomes local charity.

"One word I should like to add as to non-official co-operation. I have seen with much satisfaction that in Delhi, and I think elsewhere, those who possess means have taken steps to combine for the alleviation of the distress of their poorer neighbours. I shall not be suspected of any desire of shirking official responsibility if I welcome most cordially efforts of this kind. In this country the Government must undertake the relief of the people as a whole and the rules under which it works have been framed so as to reach the really necessitous, both the able-bodied poor and those unable to share in the ordinary forms of active employment by reason of infirmities of body, of sex, or even of social custom; but still, here as in every country, private benevolence has a long arm, which can reach further than the official one, and I rejoice to think that if need be, it will be outstretched on this occasion. It will be an example of the neighbourly kindness for which the people of India are distinguished."

But while accepting the principles laid down in the letter quoted above, and cordially welcoming the efforts of local charity, the Government of India hesitated before countenancing any appeal to the munificence of a wider public, until the magnitude of the famine could be thoroughly gauged. It was possible that if heavy rain fell in the early winter, large areas of land might be sown with *rabi* or winter crops, which, by adding to the food supply, would materially diminish the magnitude of the impending disaster, and possibly render such an appeal unnecessary. In the event, these anticipations were partly realised. The situation was much relieved by the rainfall of November; and in December and January also cold weather showers fell in many parts of the country. Spring crops were sown and germinated, though not to the full extent of the normal area.

India was thus saved from the worst that it was anticipated could happen; but by the beginning of January it became clear that, even with the assistance of the winter rains, the famine would be of the gravest character and of very wide extent. The Lord Mayor and various public bodies in England had been in communication with the Secretary of State as to the desirability of opening a Famine Relief Fund. A Provincial Fund had already been started in Bombay, at a public meeting held on 22nd December 1896 at which Lord Sandhurst presided; and on January 5th the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal received a letter from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, and similar letters from other bodies, requesting him to invite the Viceroy to preside at a meeting for the purpose of inaugurating a fund. Accordingly at the meeting of Council on the 7th January the Viceroy announced his intention of accepting this invitation. The following extracts from His Excellency's speech explain the position at that time.

Viceroy accepts invitation to a public meeting.

"When I spoke on this subject in this Council at Simla, I ventured to say that the private charity for which the people of India have ever been distinguished would no doubt be forthcoming to reach distress which Government methods could not deal with so satisfactorily. My expectations have been fulfilled; I have heard of Relief Committees in all parts of the affected provinces, and I know that the Local Governments and their officials have readily co-operated and assisted them in their work.

"A good deal has been said recently of the organization of private charity on a larger scale and of appeals for assistance from a wider field. I do not know if Hon'ble Members are fully aware of the position of Government in this matter. After the Madras Famine of 1877, a correspondence took place between the Government of India and the Secretary of State on this subject, and the Secretary of State (Lord Salisbury) gave his decision in May, 1878, in the following words:—

'You are of opinion that, in cases of future famine, no appeal should be made by a Local Government to the charity of an English public, excepting with the approval of the Governor General in Council; that the Governor General in Council should, in the first instance, define the objects to which (as distinct from the obligation devolving on the Government) such charity will be devoted; and that, to inspire confidence in the public, as well as to secure the efficient administration of the funds, local Committees should conduct their operations under the control of Government, and with the co-operation of its officers.

'I entirely concur in the soundness of these principles.'

"This declaration of principles still stands, and, so soon as my attention was directed to them, I put myself into communication with the Heads of Local Governments, and as I was on tour I had the advantage of conferring personally with many of them. I was thus enabled to bring the matter before my colleagues immediately the Government re-assembled in Calcutta, and at our first Council we, in obedience to the orders of 1878, drew up the definition of the objects to which private charity might be usefully devoted. These papers accordingly are now in the hands of Local Governments; they have also been forwarded to the Secretary of State. The despatch* will reach him on Monday; but with Lord George Hamilton's permission, we shall publish it and its enclosures in the Gazette on Saturday.† I venture to think that Hon'ble Members will agree that in these proceedings we have wasted no time, and that we may hope to have attained the object which no doubt underlies the orders, *i.e.*, that, as a consequence of what we have done, this movement can be prosecuted here, in England, or elsewhere, for a common purpose which all can understand, as a common cause in which all can co-operate.

"We know now that, over a large part of the country where a rabi crop is of primary importance, we can look forward with a fair amount of confidence. That means (as the Hon'ble Member has said) that we have reason to believe that we have escaped what has been described as likely to be the greatest calamity of the century. But, on the other hand, the statement of the Hon'ble Member has also shown that there must be over wide districts, in several provinces, a distress affecting thousands, perhaps millions, of persons for a period that must be measured by months, and a statement of that kind justifies us in saying that private charity can usefully intervene in the manner and for the purposes which we have ourselves defined.

"I have accordingly to inform the Council that having received an invitation from the citizens of Calcutta, headed by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, to attend a public meeting on the question, I propose with the utmost readiness to do so. I have reason to believe that this meeting in India will be closely followed by a meeting in London, and I can only say that as we have paved the way, so we shall do all in

* See Appendix A, page 109.

† January 9th, 1897.

our power to make these meetings and the movements they initiate in every way a success."

On the 14th January the meeting,* convened by the Sheriff, was held in the Dalhousie Institute at Calcutta, and the following resolutions were passed :—

Meeting at Dalhousie Institute.

"That this meeting recognises the fact that the time has come when a charitable fund should be formed for the relief of distress in the famine-stricken districts of India, such relief being supplementary of the operations of Government and designed to meet cases not clearly or adequately covered by those operations, and that to this end subscriptions should be invited from the well-to-do throughout this country and contributions from abroad be thankfully received."

"That this meeting accepts the statement of the objects to which private subscriptions may legitimately be devoted, as set forth by the Government in the *Gazette of India* of the 9th January, and the organisation there suggested for the collection and administration of subscriptions to the Fund; and *resolves* that a General Committee, composed of the following gentlemen, be appointed, with power to add to their number, and to appoint an Executive Committee to administer the Fund."

The objects, four in number, set forth in the *Gazette of India* have already been stated on page 3. The organisation suggested by the Government of India for the collection and administration of private subscriptions was as follows :—

(1) A Central Committee, to be termed the Indian Committee, for the provision and administration of Charitable Relief, to be established in India. The General Committee to be unlimited in numbers, and nominations of representatives from each province likely to be affected by famine to be invited.

The General Committee to nominate an Executive Committee, consisting of a limited number of members, to undertake the actual administration of the business of the Committee.

The head-quarters of the Committee to be at Calcutta. The functions of the Central Committee will be :—

(*a*) To receive moneys transmitted from England or other countries, and also moneys that may be subscribed in India for the general purposes of the Committee. The fund so created to be termed "The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1897;"

(*b*) to apportion these moneys between the different Provinces;

* A report of the meeting, and the list of the General Committee will be found in Appendix B, page 119. The Viceroy was elected President, and the Heads of Governments and Administrations Vice-Presidents of the General Committee.

(c) to arrange, in concert with the Government, the system upon which charitable relief is to be applied.

(2) A Committee to be formed in each Province, which will receive the moneys apportioned to that Province by the Central Committee, and also any moneys subscribed specially to meet the needs of the Province, will distribute these moneys to Local Committees, and will generally direct the action of the Local Committees. The Provincial Committee will act in concert with the Local Government, and will be responsible for seeing that the money allotted by the Central Committee is spent on the declared objects of the Fund and with the approval of the Local Government.

(3) Local Committees to be formed as the Provincial Committees may determine. The detailed administration of the Relief Funds will be in the hands of these Local Committees acting in concert with the local authorities.

(4) The collection of money in England to be in the hands of a Committee or other agency, which will be set on foot in such manner as the Secretary of State may deem advisable.

The Viceroy in his speech explained the principles of the organisation adopted by the meeting as follows :—

"I cannot too strongly impress upon you my sense of the importance of laying the full responsibility for the actual administration of charitable funds on those who are in a position to act with knowledge of the local circumstances. Any attempt at minute control over all India from one centre will result in lamentable failure. I, therefore, earnestly hope that in accordance with the scheme of organisation which will be submitted to the meeting, the formation of Provincial Committees will follow closely on the formation of the Central Committee here to-day; and that the principles of action being once laid down, the Provincial Committees will be allowed the amplest discretion in the management of their own funds. These funds will consist, in the first place, of all subscriptions which the donors desire should be exclusively devoted to their own Province, and in the second place, of the proportion of the General Fund which may be allotted to the Province by the Central Committee. The General Fund should consist of the money entrusted to the Central Committee, either by those in India who desire to give help wherever it is most required, or by those in England and elsewhere who cannot, from so great a distance, determine themselves where the great need may be. I feel

certain that this division and definition of duties from the first will promote efficiency and prevent waste. The Central Committee, in the collection of subscriptions and in the determination of their allocation, will have enough to do to tax the energies of the most devoted workers, and a duty which only a body of a representative character, with the fullest sense of its responsibility, can adequately discharge. In the Provincial Committees they will find no rivals, but allies, who will bring to the whole system the elasticity on which its success will mainly depend.

"I scarcely think, Ladies and Gentlemen, that it is necessary for me to promise the help and co-operation of Government and its officers in every department of this work. My honourable friend, Sir John Woodburn, last week paid a just tribute to the spirit in which local officers (by which I am sure he meant all local officers, Native and European) are meeting the call made upon them. We know by only too sad experience that they do not hesitate to risk health and strength, and even life itself, and I am confident that their assistance and co-operation will be readily and fully given towards employing to the best advantage the fund we are about to raise."

A sum of more than 2 lakhs of rupees was subscribed in the room.

Formation of Executive Committee.

The first meeting of the General Committee was held in the same place on the 15th January, the Honourable Sir Francis Maclean, Kt., Q.C., Chief Justice of Bengal, in the chair, when the following resolutions were passed :—

"That the following gentlemen form the Executive Committee, with power to add to their number."

Chairman :

The Hon'ble Sir Francis Maclean, Kt., Q.C., Chief Justice of Bengal.*

Members :

The Hon'ble Sir John Woodburn, K.C.S.I., Member of Council, in charge of the Home and Revenue and Agricultural Departments.

" " The Maharaja Bahadur of Durbhanga, K.C.I.E., of Durbhanga, Bengal.

" " Mr. H. E. M. James, Commissioner in Sind.

" " Mr. M. R. Ry. P. Ananda Charlu, Rai Bahadur, of Madras.

* The designations of the Chairman and Members have been added.

The Hon'ble The Nawab of Loharu, C.I.E., of Malir Kotla, Punjab.

" " Rao Saheb Bulwant Rao Bhuskate, of Burhanpur, Central Provinces.

" " Mr. (now Sir) P. Playfair, C.I.E., Chairman of the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce.

" " Rahimtula Muhammad Sayani, M.A., LL.B., of Bombay.

" " Pandit Bishambar Nath, of Allahabad, North-Western Provinces.

" " Babu Joy Gobind Law, of Calcutta.

" " Mr. M. Finucane, Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

" " Mr. A. H. Wallis, *Emeritus* Master of the Trades Association, Calcutta.

The Venerable Welbore MacCarthy, Archdeacon of Calcutta.

Mr. T. W. Holderness, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department (Famine).

Raja Peary Mohan Mookerjee, C.S.I., of Utterpara, near Calcutta.

Mr. S. Finney, Manager of the Eastern Bengal State Railway.

Honorary Secretary.

Colonel J. W. Ottley, C.I.E., R.E.

"That the General Committee shall authorise the Executive Committee to publish from time to time additional lists of gentlemen desirous of joining the General Committee."

The following additional members were subsequently added to the Executive Committee :—

On the 21st January—

Mr. C. H. Moore, of Messrs. Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co., Calcutta.

" C. Lawrie Johnstone, of Messrs. Jardine, Skinner & Co., Calcutta.

" S. E. J. Clarke, Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce (since deceased).

On the 22nd March—

Colonel Ottley, C.I.E., R.E., on his retiring from the office of Honorary Secretary, owing to ill-health.

On the 29th March—

The Hon'ble Mr. C. C. Stevens, C.S.I., Senior Member of the Board of Revenue, Bengal.

Major W. Bird, Controller of Military Accounts, Calcutta.

On the 30th June—

Mr. E. N. Baker, Collector of Customs, Calcutta, and Honorary Secretary, Bengal Provincial Committee (the Hon'ble Mr. Stevens having resigned).

Meetings of Executive Committee.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce kindly placed a set of rooms at the disposal of the Committee, where on the 18th January the first meeting of the Executive Committee was held. The first measure resolved upon was to write to the heads of the Governments or Administrations in the different provinces, inviting them to form Provincial Committees for distributing such funds as might be sent to them, and to affiliate to those Committees any charitable organisations already formed for assisting the famine-stricken. It was settled also that telegrams should be sent to various parts of the world, inviting subscriptions, and in carrying out this plan, Reuter's agency at Calcutta gave valuable assistance to the Committee. The starting of an organisation to collect subscriptions in England had been left to the Secretary of State. On January 9th the "*Times*" published a letter from the Lord Mayor of London, enclosing one from Lord George Hamilton, and announcing that he had opened a subscription list at the Mansion House; and Her Majesty the Queen-Empress at once sent a first contribution of £500, which was repeated later. Similar lists were opened immediately by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, by Lord Derby and Sir Frank Forbes Adam in Manchester for the county of Lancashire, and by the Lord Provosts of Edinburgh and Glasgow. Other towns and places in the United Kingdom sent their subscriptions to one of the above funds. A public meeting, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor, was held at the Guildhall on January 16th, at which His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, K.G., and Lord George Hamilton were amongst the speakers. In India itself, subscription lists were opened by the Central Executive Committee and also by all Provincial Committees, it being left to subscribers to name any particular province or place to which they wished their subscriptions allocated. Circulars were also sent by the Honorary Secretary, Colonel Ottley, to all Regiments and Batteries, to Factories and Railways, Tea-gardens, Masonic Institutions and the like throughout India. The Bishop of Calcutta kindly arranged to have collections made in all churches throughout India and Ceylon, and offers of assistance came in from all quarters. The principal Indian

Appeal for funds.

Gratuitous assistance given to the Committee.

newspapers generously offered to publish advertisements of subscriptions free. The Government of India allowed the Central Committee R1,500 a month towards office expenses. They also agreed to remit money free through their treasuries on behalf of the fund, and to allow the printing of the Central Executive Committee to be done *gratis* at the Government of India press. The Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, Ld., kindly promised to convey all messages to the Straits, China, etc., free, and numerous offers in kind, such as of rice, or patent foods suitable for emaciated or starving persons, were made. The first two subscriptions from the United Kingdom were both from Liverpool, received on the 22nd and 30th of January for R79,503-1-8 and R77,890-7-6, respectively, and the first two from other countries were from Singapore on the 30th January and 1st February of R21,970 and R11,760, collected by Mr. Arnot Reid, Editor of the *Straits Times*. The Central Committee lost no time in distributing these funds to the provinces, remitting on the 25th January sums to the amount of R1,10,000, and R2,00,000 on the 1st February following. The Committee opened an account with the Bank of Bengal. For some time the Honorary Secretary, Colonel Ottley, R.E. (whose arduous and incessant labours were unfortunately determined by a serious illness), himself acted as Honorary Treasurer, but on the 23rd February the duties of Treasurers were made over to a firm of Accountants in Calcutta, Messrs. Lovelock and Lewes, for a remuneration of R600, which was afterwards increased to R800 a month. The firm appointed as their agent Mr. W. Metcalfe, who not only kept the accounts and managed all receipts and remittances, but from the first gave intelligent and material assistance in the office work of the Committee.

Formation of Provincial Committees.

Meanwhile letters arrived from the Vice-Presidents reporting the creation of Provincial Committees, the composition of which were unusually strong. The following is a list of the Chairmen and Honorary Secretaries:—

Bengal.

CHAIRMAN.	HONORARY SECRETARY.
The Hon'ble C. C. Stevens, C.S.I., Senior Member of the Board of Revenue, succeeded by Mr. W. H. Grimley, I.C.S., Member of the Board of Revenue.	Mr. E. N. Baker, I.C.S., Collector of Customs.

Madras.

CHAIRMAN.	HONORARY SECRETARY.
The Hon'ble C. S. Crole, Senior Member of the Board of Revenue.	Mr. H. Beauchamp, Editor of the *Madras Mail.* Hon'ble Dewan Bahadur P. Rajarathnam Moodelliar, Inspector General of Registration.

Bombay.

	Mr. (now Sir) George Cotton.

North-Western Provinces and Oudh (Joint Committee).

The Hon'ble Sir John Edge, Kt., Q.C., Chief Justice of Allahabad.	Mr. J. W. Hose, I.C.S., Registrar of the High Court.

North-West Provinces.

Ditto.	Ditto.

Oudh.

Mr. J. Deas, I.C.S., Judicial Commissioner.	Mr L. C. Porter, I.C.S., City Magistrate of Lucknow.

Punjab.

The Hon'ble Sir William Rattigan, succeeded by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Reid.	Mr. D. P. Masson, Manager of the Punjab Banking Co. (Ld.) Mr. C. H. Atkins, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner.

Burma.

The Hon'ble Sir Frederick Fryer, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Burma.	Mr. W. F. Noyce, Assistant Secretary to the Financial Commissioner.

Central Provinces.

Mr. L. Ismay, I.C.S., Judicial Commissioner.	Rai Bahadur Bipin Krishna Bose, Public Prosecutor. Mr. J. T. Marten, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner.

Berar.

Mr. F. S. Bullock, I.C.S., Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts.	Mr. Bandhuji Janardan. Mr. K. N. Mudholkar.

Central India.

Colonel D. Barr, C.S.I., Agent to the Governor-General in Central India.	Captain A. D. Bannerman, Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General.

In Rajputana and Baluchistan no Provincial Commit-

tees were formed, the money being entrusted to the Agent to the Governor-General of the Province for distribution through the Political Officers.

The Central Committee cannot speak too highly of the assistance rendered to them by many of the above gentlemen.

Growth of the Fund.

Contributions to the Fund came rapidly in, and on February 2nd, Glasgow sent £25,000 followed by Edinburgh the next day with £4,000. On February 10th the first subscription of £100,000 arrived from the Mansion House, and on March 23rd the first subscription for the same amount came from the Lancashire County Fund. On February 12th Canada, whose zeal for the Fund, stimulated by the interest shown by the Governor-General the Earl of Aberdeen, and also by the extraordinary and most kind exertions of the "*Montreal Daily Star*," sent ₹1,00,000, which was succeeded by a remittance of the same amount on February 23rd.* Nor were other British Colonies behind. As early as January 31st the Straits Settlements (through the kind aid of the "*Straits Times*") sent ₹21,970, followed on February 12th by Hong-Kong with ₹50,000 and on the 18th by Victoria with £1,000. So many of the Provinces in India were themselves afflicted by famine that subscriptions raised locally were generally appropriated to local wants. But Madras sent ₹50,000 and Burma ₹55,000, in spite of their own needs. Sympathy in foreign countries too was not lacking. From Russia, Sweden, Japan, Siam and South Africa subscriptions came in; the Consul-General of France at Calcutta subscribed ₹1,500 on the part of his Government, and the Government of the Netherlands also remitted 1,500 guilders. And as time went on, substantial contributions arrived from the other Australian Colonies from New Zealand and Tasmania, and from Ceylon. Gibraltar and Mauritius subscribed handsomely, as did Natal, Trinidad and the Fiji Islands. Canada, whose sympathetic generosity has been most marked, sent five remittances each of ₹1,00,000 in a little more than two months. The treaty-ports in China and Japan also sent very liberal sums. Where all have been so generous, it is perhaps invidious to make any distinction, and a complete abstract of all the subscriptions, and the growth of the Fund month by month, up to the 31st August, will be found in Appendix C, page 141. A magnificent subscription was raised by the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House, the remittances from which amounted on the

* All parts of the Dominion contributed liberally, including some of the Provincial Governments, and the subscriptions from school-children are specially numerous.

date just mentioned to £533,000,* though the liberality of the County of Lancashire, which in all subscribed over £150,000 is entitled to an expression of the Committee's warmest gratitude.

Distribution of the Fund to Provincial Committees.

As the funds came in, they were distributed, "on account," to the newly-formed Provincial Committees. So soon as those Committees and the District Committees subordinate to them were in working order, the Central Committee called on them to make such detailed estimates of their needs as at that early stage were possible, and decided to make a distribution upon a large scale on March 22nd. This date was fixed because, owing to the Legislative Session having ended, the members of the Committee who had been chosen as representing different provinces, as well as the Hon'ble Sir John Woodburn, the Member, and Mr. T. W. Holderness, the Deputy Secretary in charge of the Famine Bureau of the Government of India, were about to leave Calcutta. Very careful consideration was given to this allocation, and the principles on which the money should be divided were much discussed. The estimates of the Provincial Committees far exceeded the amount which, as was then anticipated, the Fund was expected to attain, most of them had been framed on different bases, and the Committee was not in a position to make a comparative appraisement of the wants of all the provinces from personal knowledge. Ultimately it was decided to take as a guide the Indian Government's estimates of famine relief expenditure from public revenues in the several provinces, and to distribute about 50 lakhs of rupees in the same proportions, allowing for the sums already paid on account. This was done, and the following table shows the result:—

First large distribution of funds.

	25th January 1897.	1st February 1897.	8th February 1897.	16th February 1897	8th March 1897.	22nd March 1897.	Grand Total.
	₹	₹	₹	₹	₹	₹	₹
N.-W. P. and Oudh	40,000	80,000	1,30,000	2,50,000	2,50,000	9,65,781	17,15,781
Bengal	30,000	40,000	1,00,000	1,00,000	2,00,000	6,23,750	10,93,750
Bombay	15,000	30,000	...	...	1,00,000	6,98,750	8,43,750
Central Provinces	15,000	30,000	1,00,000	1,00,000	2,00,000	3,36,250	7,81,250
Madras	5,000	10,000	...	...	1,00,000	1,03,750	2,18,750
Punjab	5,000	10,000	...	1,00,000	1,00,000	3,750	2,18,750
Upper Burma	...	...	...	...	...	1,25,000	1,25,000
Central India	...	...	...	...	...	1,00,000	1,00,000
Berar	...	...	...	...	...	25,000	25,000
TOTAL	1,10,000	2,00,000	3,30,000	5,50,000	9,50,000	29,82,031	51,22,031†

* Large remittances were also sent from the United States to missionaries and a ship-load of grain. The account of this will find a place in the next report.

† If to this sum be added ₹2,969, expended by the Central Committee upon blankets, on behalf of the North-Western Provincial Committee, the total becomes exactly ₹51,25,000.

At a meeting of the Committee on 29th March it was also decided to remit to the different Provinces the following sums which had been received by the Central Committee in India and ear-marked by the donors for the benefit of special localities, without making a deduction from the share of the general Fund allocated to those localities :—

	R	*a.*	*p.*
North-Western Provinces	2,581	0	0
Bengal	64,325	4	0
Bombay	250	0	0
Central Provinces	519	0	0
Madras	10	0	0
Punjab	12,633	0	0
Upper Burma	.....		
Central India	.....		
Berar	.....		
TOTAL	80,318	4	0

Applications had already been received from two provinces urging that the minimum further grant should be specified, if possible, to assist them in distributing the funds already received. The growth of the Fund during that one week was so considerable (from 75 lakhs to a little more than 100 lakhs) that the Committee felt justified in guaranteeing to the North-Western Provinces Committee a further grant of 13 lakhs and to the Punjab 2 lakhs.

Reason for not making larger grants in March.

There were several reasons for not distributing a larger sum on March 22nd. The Committee had ascertained from the distressed provinces that in consequence of the efficiency of the Government relief under the different Famine Codes, the large bulk of the Fund would be most usefully devoted to the fourth Object, *viz.*, to restoring to their former position by grants of money, seed or bullocks, the large body of cultivators who without such assistance would be ruined beyond redemption, and be compelled to leave the fields which they and their ancestors had cultivated for hundreds of years, and thus sink into the position of labourers. Similarly, numerous artizans, who had sold their looms and implements of trade would need assistance. But the time for relieving these classes would not come till the approach of the next monsoon, *viz.*, before May and June, and till then the Provincial Committees had sufficient money for the first three objects of the Fund. On the other hand, as the famine developed, the actual sum of distress to be relieved

could be better gauged, and it was recognised that the provisional estimates of the Indian Government of famine relief expenditure in the several provinces were not altogether a safe guide, partly because the Local Governments themselves could not foresee what the famine was likely to cost them, partly because the State expenditure was mainly for the relief of classes whom the Fund only slightly touched, and partly because the kinds of relief to be administered by the Fund, did not necessarily bear any relation to that which the Government undertook. Sums that would go a long way in a province where the plough-cattle had not perished for want of fodder and where the ryots would only require grants of seed and assistance towards maintaining themselves till the new crop came in, would be of comparatively slight help in districts where the cattle had died, or been parted with, in very large numbers, since grants for the purchase or even the hire of fresh cattle, as well as of fodder to feed them, would be imperative. Again, people in tracts which had suffered from actual famine during the previous year as in Bundelkhand, or which had experienced failures of crops for three or four years in succession, as in parts of Oudh and the Central Provinces, would require more assistance than in tracts where only one bad failure had occurred, and as the Fund, however large it might become, would only suffice to relieve a comparatively few of the worst cases, it was necessary to ascertain the places where the distress was most acute. The Central Committee therefore determined to send a representative of their own to confer with the Provincial Committees, ascertain from the Local Governments and District Officers the facts of the distress and report to the Central Committee which people were in the greatest need. He was also commissioned to see that the operations of the Fund did not overlap those of the Government and to write accounts of those operations for the information of subscribers. And he was to be specially required to travel as quickly as practicable in order that grants for the fourth Object of the Fund might be given out by the Central Committee and distributed through Provincial Committees in good time before the monsoon.

Appointment of Vice-Chairman to visit distressed provinces.

This duty was imposed on the Honourable Mr. H. E. M. James, Commissioner in Sind, a member of the Committee, the loan of whose services for the purpose indicated the interest taken by the Government of India in the Fund, and the importance they attached to its fair and just distribution.

Tour in Northern and Central India.

He was elected Vice-Chairman and he also undertook the duties of Honorary Secretary, *vice* Colonel Ottley, whose services were unfortunately lost to the Committee on the 22nd March owing to illness. Colonel Ottley had just completed organising the office and preparing the books and accounts of the Central Committee, he had worked out the innumerable minor details connected with the receipt of subscriptions and the despatch of money and supplies to the distressed provinces, and except for his incessant labours the duties of Honorary Secretary could not have been combined with those of Vice-Chairman. The Committee placed on record their high sense of the services he had rendered them. Mr. James left Calcutta on the 31st March. He visited in rapid succession Allahabad, Lucknow and several places in Bundelkhand, several places in the Central Provinces, and also Lahore, consulting the Local Governments and Committees in each place. On his way back he spent three days with the Commissioner of Patna in the worst districts of Behar. He finally returned to Calcutta on the 25th April, and submitted his report. This was circulated to all Members of the Central Committee, including those who were absent, for consideration, and a general meeting was specially summoned to consider it. The result was that, after three meetings to discuss the subject, at one of which provisional grants were sanctioned for two provinces, on May 11th the Central Committee made the following additional distribution, based mainly upon Mr. James' report and upon a minute recorded by four members of the Committee who were at Simla :—

Second large distribution of funds.

Province.	Amount granted up to March 29th.	Grants made or confirmed on 11th May 1897.	Grand Total.
	£	£	£
North-Western Provinces	30,18,362	10,00,000	40,18,362
Bengal	11,58,075	3,50,000	15,08,075
Bombay	8,44,000	.....	8,44,000
Central Provinces	7,81,769	14,00,000	21,81,769
Madras	2,18,760	1,45,833	3,64,593
Punjab	4,31,383	4,00,000	8,31,383
Upper Burma	1,25,000	75,000	2,00,000
Central India	1,00,000	1,25,000	2,25,000
Berar	25,000	25,600	50,000
Rajputana	.....	25,000	25,000
Total	67,02,349*	35,45,833	1,02,48,182

* This sum includes the amounts of 13 and 2 lakhs guaranteed on March 29th to the North-Western Provinces and Punjab, respectively, and the "ear-marked" funds which had been already paid over.

Vice-Chairman visits Central Provinces again, Berar, Madras and Bombay.

The Provincial Committee of Madras, which the Vice-Chairman had been unable to visit, had been complaining of the inadequacy of its allotment, and it was therefore decided that Mr. James should go there as soon as possible. A few days were spent in printing off the notes of the Vice-Chairman's tour, which the Chairman desired to send to the Viceroy as President of the General Committee, with a view, if His Excellency thought fit, to their being sent to the Secretary of State for communication to the Lord Mayor of London and others for the information of subscribers. Mr. James again left Calcutta on May 26th and, after interviews with the Provincial Committees of the Central Provinces and Berar *en route*, went on to Madras, where he conferred with the Government and the Committee of that Province. He then proceeded to three of the most distressed Madras districts where he met the Famine Commissioner and other officials, as well as the District Committees. Thence he made a short tour through the worst parts of the Bombay Presidency and ascertained the facts about a terrible mortality of cattle. At Poona, he conferred with the Governor of Bombay and many officers of the Fund there, and finally returned to Calcutta on the 26th June, where a second series of Notes on Tour was issued shortly afterwards.

Further *ad interim* grants.

On leaving the Madras Presidency the Vice-Chairman telegraphed to Sir Francis Maclean advising that a remittance be immediately made to that Committee. The Chairman lost no time in convening the Committee, and an emergent grant of 2 lakhs was sanctioned at once. A full report on the needs of Madras was submitted by the Vice-Chairman to the Committee, as soon as he returned, and on the 30th June the following additional grants were sanctioned and subsequently paid :—

	₹
Madras	4,00,000
Bengal	1,50,000
Central Provinces	25,000*
Berar	30,000†
TOTAL .	6,05,000

Third large distribution of funds.

Meanwhile the fund increased and Provincial Committees were again invited by a circular, dated June 21st, to submit details of any special wants that had come to their notice during the progress of operations and for which

* Specially for the Chhatisgarh Feudatory States.
† For the distressed Hill-tract called Melghat and for the Akola District.

their funds had proved insufficient. The reports of the Committees were received on 10th July and were at once printed and circulated to all the members, with a review by the Vice-Chairman; and the Chairman summoned a meeting for the 19th July to consider them. The Committee deliberated for two days and carefully discussed the claims of each province *seriatim*. It was then found that in spite of the distribution of ₹6,05,000 on 30th June, the Central Committee had still 29½ lakhs in hand. Out of this, they resolved to keep back a sum of 6 lakhs, which has since been invested in 3½ per cent Government Securities, with a view to subsidising later those Provincial Committees on whom the burden would fall of providing for a large number of homeless orphans, and a sum of ₹23,55,000 was distributed as follows :—

Reservation of money for orphans after the Famine.

Province.	Allotments made on July 20th.	Total allotments including that of July 20th, and earmarked funds.
	₹	₹ a.
Rajputana	*Nil*	25,000 0
Baluchistan	20,000	20,000 0
Central India	1,00,000	3,25,000 0
Berar	10,000	90,000 0
Burma	25,000	2,25,000 0
Punjab	75,000	9,06,383 0
Madras	2,00,000	11,64,593 0
Bombay	3,50,000	11,94,000 0
Bengal	2,00,000	18,58,075 4
N.-W. P. and Oudh	5,75,000	45,93,362 0
Central Provinces	8,00,000	30,06,769 0
Total	23,55,000	1,34,08,182 4

This grant of R20,000 was the first made to Baluchistan and was given on behalf of the very distressed hill-people in that Agency, who for two years from want of rain had suffered severely by the death of their plough-bullocks and the destruction of their flocks and herds. A grant was also applied for on behalf of Gwalior which was considered in allotting funds to the Central India Agency.

The Committee also made over to the Provincial Committee the various sums of ear-marked funds collected by the Central Committee for them since March 29th, which were as follows :—

	R	a.	p.
Bengal	6,633	14	6
Punjab	200	0	0
Central Provinces	269	8	0
North-Western Provinces	325	2	1
Bombay	250	0	0
Madras	284	8	0
Central India	50	0	0
TOTAL	8,013	0	7

The grand total of the grants to Provincial Committees, therefore amounted on the 31st July to the following :— Total grants made by Central Committee.

	R	a.	p.
Rajputana	25,000	0	0
Baluchistan	20,000	0	0
Central India	3,25,050	0	0
Berar	90,000	0	0
Burma	2,25,000	0	0
Punjab	9,06,583	0	0
Madras	11,64,877	8	0
Bombay	11,94,250	0	0
Bengal	18,64,709	2	6
N.-W. P. and Oudh	45,93,687	2	1
Central Provinces	30,07,038	8	0
GRAND TOTAL	1,34,16,195	4	7

If to these figures be added the sums collected by Provincial Committees themselves, or by District Committees, and utilised for local needs, the total amount of the Relief Total assets of Provincial Committee.

funds, in the hands of Provincial and District Committees for distribution, had reached on 31st July to the following:—

Province.	Sums received from the Central Committee.			Sums reported as locally collected in the Provinces.			Total of Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, received for distribution.		
	₹	a.	p.	₹	a.	p.	₹	a.	p.
Rajputana .	25,000	0	0	*Nil*			25,000	0	0
Baluchistan .	20,000	0	0	*Nil*			20,000	0	0
Central India .	3,25,050	0	0	67,268	13	0	3,92,318	13	0
Berar . .	90,000	0	0	77,391	7	9	1,67,391	7	9
Burma . .	2,25,000	0	0	43,387	15	1	2,68,387	15	1
Punjab . .	9,06,583	0	0	2,28,367	3	10	11,34,950	3	10
Madras . .	11,64,877	8	0	2,07,253	9	8	13,72,131	1	8
Bombay . .	11,94,250	0	0	2,59,794	9	4	14,54,044	9	4
Bengal . .	18,64,709	2	6	4,49,873	6	11	23,14,582	9	5
N.-W. Provinces and Oudh .	45,93,687	2	1	4,52,212	10	10	50,45,899	12	11
Central Provinces	30,07,038	8	0	76,693	10	2	30,83,732	2	2
Grand Total	1,34,16,195	4	7	18,62,243	6	7	1,52,76,438	11	2

The balance of the fund on the 31st July in the hands of the Central Committee itself amounted to ₹6,38,281-10-4.*

A complete statement of the receipts and expenditure of the Central Committee up to the end of August will be found in Appendix D (page 146).

Distribution of gifts by Central Committee.

14. Besides the arduous and responsible duty of appraising the needs of different provinces, and allocating the funds where they were most required, the Central Committee have had the task of distributing all over India gifts in kind that have been made them by various charitable firms and individuals. The first of these was a present of 100 large cases of Mellin's food, valued at £350, for the use of the sick and emaciated in orphanages and poor-house hospitals. This offer gave rise to a somewhat curious incident. The Central Committee on the advice of one of their body, a native gentleman, at first declined it, feeling doubtful whether ignorant people might not look on the food with suspicion, as a surreptitious attempt to injure their caste. Fortunately, however, a Provincial Committee heard of this decision and begged that the gift might be received on their account.

* On 12th August additional grants were made, amounting to ₹1,61,000 (*vide* Appendix D, page 147), and on 6th September grants of ₹1,00,000, details of which will appear in the next report. On 9th September, the balance was ₹51,345-12-4, exclusive of the investment for the maintenance of orphans, referred to on page 20.

The Committee, therefore, altered its decision and gratefully accepted the offer, with the result that from all parts of India reports have been received of the value of the food to the weakly and ill. Another gift was 100 cases of Triticine food which was also indented for largely. A third was 14 cases of Meaby's biscuits, of the nutritious value of which and their popularity with the natives, a Deputy Commissioner in Oudh reported in most glowing terms. A fourth was 100 cases of Swiss milk from the "First Swiss Alpine Milk Exporting Company," which was also an extremely useful contribution, being valuable in feeding very young and emaciated children in the poor-house hospitals. Another gift was a consignment of 20,000 cartridges from the Normal Powder Syndicate, Limited, which were to be sold in India and the proceeds devoted to the Famine Charitable Relief Fund. Up to date, however, the Committee regret they have not been able to dispose of them. The Central Committee have also been the medium* of distributing gifts of clothing received from charitable ladies at home, some of whom, for instance the Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, Mrs. Hauser, of 48 Bedford Gardens, Kensington, Mrs. Hope Simpson, of Liverpool, Mrs. Royse, of Newton-le-Willows, Mrs. Frizelle, of Singapore, and others, organised working parties. Eighty bales in all have been received, through the Stores Department of the India Office, and the gifts of clothing have been very highly appreciated. Except, however, in the case of gifts consigned to themselves the Central Committee have left it to the Provincial Committees to make their own purchases of clothes required for the famine-stricken, although in one instance they purchased and sent a quantity of blankets which were urgently required during the cold weather on relief works in the North-Western Provinces.

Miscellaneous work of the Central Committee.

The Central Committee have received many direct applications for personal assistance, but have consistently referred them to the Provincial Committees for disposal. While refraining on principle from interfering with Provincial Committees in the distribution of their funds, the Central Committee have issued detailed instructions on several occasions, pointing out how economy may be secured and the overlapping of Government relief prevented, suggesting the best methods of securing accuracy and uniformity in accounts and returns, and have arranged with Local Governments for

Examination of accounts.

* Their acknowledgments are due to Mr. E. N. Baker, the Honorary Secretary, Bengal Provincial Branch, who kindly undertook, on the Central Committee's behalf, the distribution of clothes and gifts in kind.

an examination on the spot by Government Officers of the accounts of District Committees. These officers' duty is to see that the accounts are kept properly, that the returns of persons relieved are accurate, and that the money has been expended on the declared objects of the fund. Experienced gentlemen have been nominated, who are now travelling round the Districts for the purpose. At their 6th meeting on the 1st February, the Central Committee asked all Provincial Committees to consider the desirability of utilising the services of Missionary and other suitable local agencies, both in the matter of the collection of subscriptions and (more especially) in the distribution of funds placed at their disposal. They decided also that Native States which were suffering from famine were equally eligible with districts in British India for relief from the Fund. A question that gave rise to some discussion was whether loans might be granted from the Fund, as was proposed by one Provincial Committee. The sense of the majority of the Central Committee was against the proposal, which was ultimately withdrawn and the matter dropped. At the instance of the two Provincial Committees concerned, the Central Committee have also arranged with the Governments of the North-West Provinces and Oudh and of the Central Provinces, both of which have kindly accepted the responsibility, that the schemes for maintaining friendless orphans after the famine including the selection and subsidising of orphanages, shall be matured by those Governments which will send estimates to the Central Committee of the sums required. As trusts will have to be created in favour of the Governments through whose officers the relief will be dispensed after the Famine Fund has been wound up, it is desirable in every way that the Governments most concerned should have a voice in the matter from the commencement. The number of orphans is not likely to be large in any other Province.

Use of Missionary Agencies.

Native States.

Loans.

Provision for orphans after the famine.

Meetings.

Up to the end of July the Central Committee held 19 meetings, or an average of 3 per mensem. There have been 4 more meetings between 1st August and 6th September.

PART II.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES.

Expenditure by Provincial Committees.

Provincial Committees have sent to the Central Committee periodical progress reports, at first fortnightly and afterwards monthly, and fortnightly accounts of receipts and expenditure. Reports of their meetings and of the decisions arrived at have also been communicated to the Central Committee. But, mainly owing to the extreme pressure upon the officers who are Chairmen of Committees and on all concerned in the administration of either Government or Charitable Relief, some of the returns have been neither as full nor as punctual as could be desired. Every allowance, however, must be made for the difficulties of the time, and when the strain grows less with the gradual disappearance of the famine, no doubt full information of every kind will be available. Meanwhile it is possible to compile, from the papers received, and from notes and reports which the Vice-Chairman collected on tour and since, an account of the operations that are going on and the numbers of persons being relieved by the Fund. Reference is here suggested to Appendix H, which gives a list of the distressed districts and a statement of the growth of the intensity of the famine, as indicated by the increasing numbers on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous Government doles. The numbers fluctuated, specially when the spring harvest was being reaped, and the areas shown are sometimes inclusive of areas not actually distressed. But they are sufficiently accurate to show the magnitude of the famine.

Wide scope for charitable relief.

It must always be remembered that the charitable relief in an Indian Famine includes everything outside of Government relief, which is of two kinds. First, manual labour is offered on relief works, such as the excavation of tanks or the construction of roads, for a wage calculated to be just sufficient to maintain the worker in health. Secondly, there is Government gratuitous relief to those who cannot do manual labour, the aged or very young children or the crippled and infirm. This may take the form of cooked meals given to the dependants of the labourers on relief works, or of doles in grain or money to those who cannot leave their villages. But outside of these forms of relief, everything depends upon charity. Government

relief, especially when given on an extended scale, requires rigid tests of destitution so as to prevent abuse. In justice to the tax-payer, and also because of the impossibility of differentiating between classes, Government cannot give doles at home to any able-bodied person simply on the ground that he is too respectable to go to the relief works, though there may be in fact thousands of such persons in danger of starvation who would perish rather than accept Government relief of any kind or even go outside their doors to be given food. It is not the function of Government to distribute clothes to the needy, nor can Government while supporting freely several millions of people, undertake to give them comforts or luxuries, even if it keeps up rude hospitals for them. Government can see that no orphan children are left to starve, and will feed them so long as the famine lasts, but afterwards charity must take care of such as have no homes to return to, for there is no poor law in India. The relief of weavers and artizans by employing them at their own trades is also for economic and other reasons, usually beyond the reach of Government, much more so the relief of non-professional persons who gain their livelihood at home by work, such as spinning, sewing, embroidering. In short, Government aid is restricted within rigid and defined lines, outside of which the whole area of misery belongs to charity. Charity supplements the work of the Government and softens its hard business-like features. Charity takes care of those famine-stricken who cannot accept or be reached by Government relief. In particular, charity endeavours to rescue from irretrievable ruin as many respectable deserving persons as possible, whether cultivators, artizans, or well born persons with small incomes, whose means have come completely to an end, either from failure of crops, prolonged high prices, or loss of custom or employment, by starting them afresh in life. The scope for charity of this kind during the present famine has been boundless.

Provincial Committee's reports to the Central Committee.

A brief sketch will now be given of the localities where the distress has been faced, as well as of the main branches of expenditure undertaken by each Provincial Committee, as gathered from their reports, and the numbers being relieved in various ways. The reasons for the Central Committee's allocation of Funds will then be better understood.

Bengal.

The most seriously affected tract is Behar, the scene of the Famine of 1874, and the greater part of Chota Nagpur:

many districts of Central Bengal and a small part of Orissa have also been affected, several districts seriously. The population of Behar is very dense, and the struggle for existence in the best of years is difficult. Many petty cultivators subsist on less than an acre of land. Fortunately in 1894-95 there were good crops. But in 1895-96 they were poor, and in 1896-97 the most important crop, the winter rice, in some tracts failed entirely and in others was very short. Good authorities with experience of the famine of 1874 considered that the dearth on the present occasion was even worse. But, partly owing to railways, partly to the prompt and liberal measures of relief adopted by the Bengal Government and partly because the people had not suffered from so long a series of bad seasons as in parts of the North-Western and Central Provinces, and also because the cattle had not perished from lack of fodder, the famine, even in Behar, has fortunately never presented those acute outward signs of distress which have characterised it in some other parts of India. The Provincial Committee has, therefore, been able to provide for Charitable Relief with a much less sum than might otherwise, considering the numbers and poverty of the people, have been expected.

The Provincial Committee have adopted the plan of making allotments to the Commissioners of Divisions, who are left, in consultation with the Collectors and the District Committees, to allocate the funds to local areas.

*Object I.**—In July the number relieved was 44,077 and the total expenditure on this object from the commencement to the end of July has been ₹89,628. Clothes and money relief to those in distress and not yet provided with Government relief, are the principal items of expenditure.

Object II.—The sum of ₹10,613 has been spent up to the end of July, the outlay in that month alone being ₹4,581 and at the end of the month 5,616 orphans were on the lists. The expenditure has increased very much in June and July, indicating that as the famine became more severe, the orphans who had hitherto been supported by relations or neighbours (themselves in most cases possessing only a bare margin of subsistence), were gradually losing the protectors on whom they depended, and the Fund has taken their place. When the famine subsides, most of the

* See Part I, page 3, for the definition of the Four Main Objects of the Fund.

orphans will probably return to those who cared for them originally.

Object III.—The expenditure up to 31st July was R4,92,946. With the aid of English Indigo planters and public-spirited Native gentlemen, large numbers of decayed families (who are given the relief secretly) and ladies who cannot appear in public and whose case is described as being desperate, have been relieved everywhere. Cheap grain shops and the giving of employment to poor women and others, in the shape of spinning, cleansing rice and the like, come under this head. The figures for July alone were 172,271 persons relieved at a cost of R1,89,431. Allowing for large numbers of children, still the economy of distribution is evident.

In his speech at the Dalhousie Institute, the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, expressed his belief that this object was the most useful of all in Bengal. He said :—

"We can find work comparatively easily for all who are able to wield a mattock or carry a load. But the poor respectable class, described in the programme, who would rather die in their desolate homes than apply for Government relief with its necessarily rigorous enquiries and its stringent labour tests—it is they who will benefit most by the existence of this Fund."

Object IV.—Up to July 31st the sum of R2,16,400 only had been spent, mostly on grants for seed, the most distressed parts of Behar obtaining the lion's share.

Miscellaneous expenditure (*e.g.*, office expenditure and items not yet debited to one of the four objects) amounts to R53,575 up to the end of July ; it includes purchase of a good deal of material for the employment of respectable poor, such as cotton for spinning and rice for husking.

On July 31st the balance of the Provincial fund, including local contributions, was a little over 15¼ lakhs, of which (in round figures) 10 were with District Committees, who have since been distributing it to poor ryots under Object IV. A sum of 4¾ lakhs was as yet unallotted by Commissioners, and the Provincial Committee had in hand the remainder.*

The bulk of the expenditure in Bengal will find a place in the next report. The principal crop is the winter rice, which will not be harvested till December and January, and the peasantry, as they leave the relief-works, will be given sums to buy seed and maintain themselves till that month.

* As the report was passing through the Press, the Provincial Committee returned ¾ of a lakh to the Central Committee.

North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

These two provinces combined have been suffering most severely. In the southern part of the North-Western Provinces, comprising Bundelkhand and the district of Allahabad, south of the River Jumna, serious famine existed throughout 1896, and in parts of Oudh relief works were opened both in 1894 and 1895. In Bundelkhand floods in 1894 and droughts in 1894 and 1895 had already reduced the people to a state of almost absolute ruin when this final famine overtook them. So keen has the distress been in this part of the country that in one tract as many as 4 out of every 5 persons were on Government relief in the spring of this year. And the high prices caused by the famine reduced the respectable poor of the large towns, such as Lucknow and Allahabad, to starvation, from which the fund has relieved them.

Object I.—In May the average number relieved each fortnight was 61,458, the cost during the month being ₹37,305-11-2. The small average expenditure is, no doubt, owing to the inclusion of children in the total. The relief in the North-Western Provinces usually takes the form of grants to persons who are unable to go on Government relief works on account of children and other reasons—special grants to persons in receipt of Government relief who need assistance by the grant of clothes or comforts or extra rations for themselves or their children. It also includes patients in hospitals, and children taken over specially by the fund for careful and individual treatment.

In the United Provinces the need of blankets for the relief workers in the cold weather and ordinary clothes to cover their nakedness in the hot has been very greatly felt, as the people are so poor. Up to the beginning of April, two Superintending Engineers alone had spent ₹27,000 between them on clothing, chiefly for women on relief works, and with such economy that upwards of 40,000 had been clad for the money. But the necessity for clothes only increases as time goes on. The Provincial Committee spent ₹2,290-7-3 in purchasing 4,000 belts and 2,000 jerseys from the Cawnpore Woollen Mills at a cheap rate. The belts are specially useful for making into little coats for children, who suffer from rain and cold, and a special grant, ₹1,000, was recently made to a Collector for the purpose of buying more of them.

For June the accounts show a considerable diminution in numbers, probably owing to smaller purchases of clothing. The average number of persons relieved per fortnight was 6,639 and the total expenditure was ₹19,819-13-7. No person is counted more than once. During the first half of July 21,824 were relieved at a cost of ₹13,540-8-9, and in the latter part of the month the numbers were 25,508 at a cost of ₹9,274-9-9. The outlay up to 31st July was ₹2,14,383.

Object II.—The accounts for the second half of May show 1,389 orphans, those for the corresponding half of June only 198, with an expenditure of ₹727-1-5 and ₹22-15-8, respectively. The reduction in numbers is due to the Fund being relieved by the Government of expenditure upon orphanages, which till the end of the Famine are Government institutions. In the first fortnight of July the number was 461 and expenditure ₹454-10-0, in the second half 793, costing ₹1,203-0-9. Practically the main expenditure under this head will be incurred after the Famine is over, but the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Committee gave ₹1,000 to orphanages in Agra, and the Vice-Chairman has seen the careful arrangements for sick orphans near Allahabad, all at the expense of the fund. When orphans have been returned to their friends, adopted by respectable co-religionists, or made over to an orphanage which undertakes to bring them up gratuitously, the expenditure by the Fund ceases. But as long as the Famine lasts, the Government makes itself responsible for keeping orphans alive like other people, the Fund only assisting with medical comforts, clothes and special attendance. Up to 31st July the expenditure was ₹7,157.

Object III.—Upon the relief of '*purdanishins*'* and the respectable poor, who cannot comply with the Government tests of relief, the expenditure in the N.-W. Provinces and Oudh is large, owing mainly to the existence of large towns such as Lucknow, where ₹12,600 is spent every month on this object. The number relieved in both provinces in the second fortnight of May was 100,255, and in the corresponding fortnight of June 95,750. During the first half of July the number was 90,890 and the expenditure ₹66,655-2-5, during the second half 95,412, costing ₹51,667-6-8. The Vice-Chairman was himself a witness of the great care with which the subjects of relief under this head are chosen and the careful and considerate manner in which the pay-

* Females who do not appear in public.

ments are made. A great deal also has been done in the way of giving poor women sewing and embroidery. The ordinary allowance *per mensem* is only ₹1 to ₹2, with a small allowance for children. Numbers might have perished miserably without this assistance. No person is counted more than once in each return.

The Oudh Committee have now set aside ₹28,620 a month for expenditure on the first three objects of the Fund. The expenditure in the North-Western Provinces is about ₹80,000 at present. In the early part of the famine it was about 1¾ lakhs monthly for both Provinces, and, up to 31st July, ₹7,01,902 have been spent altogether. The *Gazette of India* gives the number of persons in the United Provinces relieved by the Fund during the week ending July 24th, as 64,481.*

Object No. IV.—The Joint Provincial Committee allotted nearly 31 lakhs of rupees to the very important duty of assisting those ruined by the famine to return to their former states in life. And they, as well as the District Committees, have applied to it such savings as could be effected from grants for other objects, so that the total expenditure will probably exceed even that sum. The lists of the persons to be relieved were made by the village officers and were checked and the money paid by the Collectors and their assistants personally. The greater part of the sum was expended in grants for the purchase of cattle, to replace those sold to buy food, for seed grain, and also for maintaining the cultivators, when they left the relief works, up to harvest time. The bulk of the money was given away between 15th May and 15th July, and payments were made during that time to 303,523 persons, the expenditure being ₹28,44,332, so that each family received on an average a little under ₹10. In the second half of July, 11,538 grants were made, amounting to ₹79,474, and the total outlay on this object has been ₹30,12,839. Thus, by the aid of the Fund, the number of families restored to prosperity in the two provinces exceeds considerably the whole of the individual population of Edinburgh, counting therein all men, women and children. The Honorary Secretary of the Fund at Allahabad, Mr. J. W. Hose, recently visited some of the villages, and on enquiry of the people who were actually cultivating, ascertained that they had all spent the grants given to them on the exact purposes for

* This figure includes only those persons relieved by Government officials with money given from the Fund.

which they were given. The percentage of people relieved to the vast numbers who needed relief is small, but the aggregate amount of good done is enormous. In towns also makers of damascened metal fabrics and other tasteful oriental wares have been given employment by the purchase of their wares.

Central Provinces.

Central Provinces.

This is the most distressed province of all. It is worse off on the whole than the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, where one entire division at least, that of Meerut, which receives special protection from irrigation, has not needed relief at all, and it has suffered from a long succession of bad seasons. There are no irrigation works in the Central Provinces, which for the last five years have suffered from failure of crops. In June 1896, before it was even suspected that 1896-97 would be a famine year, the state of the Province was causing the Chief Commissioner great anxiety, since for three successive years unseasonable weather and blight had injured and, in parts, wholly destroyed the crops, in the fourth, 1894-95, there was a serious drought, and now, in 1896-97, scarcely a district has escaped, the Chattisgarh Division, which had been fortunate up to the present year, and in which famine was scarcely ever heard of, being one of the worst. The Central Committee recognising these facts have made every endeavour to give the Central Provinces as large a grant as possible.

Although the information received from the Provincial Committee has been unusually full and valuable, they have failed hitherto in obtaining from District Committees or from the District Officers who are making the distributions on behalf of the District Committees, statistics of numbers relieved, and the Central Committee have thought it considerate not to press for the figures at present. The visit of the Vice-Chairman to five of the distressed districts, his conference with the officers and his personal inspection of the relief that is being administered from the Fund have brought the Central Committee ample evidence of the care devoted to the active part of the Fund's work. The last grant of 8 lakhs of rupees will be specially valuable in starting in life again those whose land is only fit for sowing at the commencement of the cold weather and which grows the most valuable crops, such as wheat or linseed, the seed grain for which is more expensive than for the summer crops.

Objects Nos. I and II.—The Provincial Committee have not yet been able to separate the amounts spent under these two heads, possibly because the Government orphanages are usually in close connection with poor-houses, and extra comforts are given to both at the same time. Subsidies to private orphanages maintained by missionaries and others who have taken in the famine waifs and strays might, however, well have been distinguished. But the officer who will examine the accounts and figures will see that this omission is supplied.

Under the two first heads the expenditure has been, up to the end of June, ₹91,481, and in July, ₹15,475. Nearly fifty thousand persons have been given clothes, but funds to purchase them, even after allowing for the supplies sent from England, are still quite inadequate for the needs of the distressed. In the Highlands of the Central Provinces there is a more than usually large proportion of aboriginal hill tribes, a class who delight in a free wild life in the jungles, supporting themselves by rude and scanty cultivation and sometimes by wages for cutting timber, who are accustomed even in ordinary years to depend greatly on jungle fruits and roots, and can endure scarcity up to a certain point better than the people of the plains. They are very unwilling to leave their forest homes, their little settlements are difficult of access, and they often refuse point blank to come to Government relief works, which are necessarily in most cases at some distance from the hills. When reduced to emaciation they wander aimlessly into the plains for help, and then the organisation of the Fund has been of great assistance in rescuing them, feeding them and inducing them to proceed to the Government poorhouses or relief works.

The number of derelict children in the Central Provinces is very large. In one District alone some hundreds, with the aid of the Fund, are being taken care of in missionary and other orphanages, and it is expected that at the end of the famine provision may have to be made by the Fund for about 2,000, the same number that are at present expected to be left wholly friendless in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

Object No. III.—The outlay up to the end of June has been ₹58,745, and in July ₹20,208. The Central Provinces is not remarkable for its large towns or the numbers of poor and respectable classes. But under this head comes relief of

a kind which has been made wide use of in India, in shapes that vary according to local needs, *viz.*, the sale of grain at special shops to poor and respectable people at cheap rates. In some parts of India it has been found possible to give people as much as 4lb of grain per rupee more than the market price allowed, but at Nagpur the Committee was only able to give about one pound more for a rupee. Yet there was very keen competition for tickets.

Object IV.—In its report for June the Provincial Committee states that about 175,000 cultivators, considerably more than the whole population of Venice and about equal to the population of Portsmouth, have been relieved, the expenditure up to the end of July being ₹18,41,705. This gives an average rate rather higher than in the North-Western Provinces, and is due, no doubt, to comparatively few cattle having died in the latter Province. In the Central Provinces the mortality was shocking, ryots having been known to sell their bullocks for eight annas apiece (less than the value of the skin), in order to procure food and because the animals must otherwise die. District Committees in this Province estimated their requirements under this head at ₹51,38,679. The Secretary to the Administration, when the Vice-Chairman was on tour, went very carefully into the matter, and kindly gave him an estimate of 27 lakhs, which the Chief Commissioner, Sir Charles Lyall, approved. This estimate, which was subsequently adopted by the Provincial Committee, provided seed for about 400,000 acres in the summer and nearly the same area in the winter, supplied 12,000 cultivators with a pair of bullocks and gave 70,000 cultivators food for two months while cultivating. It contemplated relieving generally only 3 to 4 per cent. of occupancy-tenants owning their own lands and 11·50 per cent. of ordinary tenants, the proportion varying in each district according to the intensity of the distress. The District Committees have evidently (though the numbers of really deserving persons are stated to have been rigidly cut down) given smaller grants to a larger number of persons than the Secretary contemplated, for the average grant he proposed was ₹30 per head for seed and food, and where bullocks were needed, the estimated price was ₹20 to ₹30 a pair. Indeed, in one district, it is admitted that the average grant was cut down to ₹10, and that, owing to the crowds of people applying, in some cases grants as low as ₹2 per head were made.

The Committee are reserving about six out of the eight lakhs granted on July 20ths to assist cultivators in raising the very important *rabi* or winter crops. Thus about 75 per cent. of the Secretary's recommendations will be carried out. In the majority of cases the relief has been given in the shape of money, but there is at least one distressed tract in which the absence of corn dealers, and the difficulty of access to it combined, have forced the local committees to buy grain and seed for distribution. Where bullocks have been given, they were specially purchased, and not made over to individuals but to the village-community, to prevent them being seized at any time for individual debt. There is abundant evidence of the great care taken everywhere to select the persons most deserving of relief, and to see that the relief reaches the person intended without any abstraction or deduction.

Relief has also been given largely in the Central Provinces to distressed weavers, metal-workers and other manufacturing castes. In parts of the Central Provinces (and the same may be said of Madras, where the Government itself has organised relief for weavers) not merely the common coarse cloth worn by labourers but excellent high-class fabrics are still made by hand-loom weavers, for which there is a continual demand in the rich cities of the Bombay Presidency. Unfortunately, owing to certain unfavourable conjunctions of the stars, the Brahmin astrologers have pronounced the period from April 1896 to October 1897 an inauspicious time for marriages, so the demand for these cloths for brides' *trousseaux* has ceased, and during the prevalence of the plague people have had too much to do to think of buying new clothes. Thus, with the demand for their fabrics fallen away and the high prices of food owing to the Famine, the weavers have doubly suffered. The same remarks apply more or less to other local manufactures. Hence advances of material, which are taken back in the shape of cloth, only the labour being paid for, have been a common form of relief, the clothes so manufactured being usually reserved for distribution to relief workers. The receipts under this head in July amounted to no less than R20,899.

Bombay.

The Deccan districts of Bombay had suffered from two bad seasons prior to the last most disastrous one. The Bombay.

worst portion is the strip of country furthest away from the coast, where, as in the adjoining part of Madras, rainfall has always been very precarious. This portion again, as in the case of Madras, suffered terribly in the great famine of 1876-77 and relief works had to be opened as late as in 1891-92. The poor hill people in the Western Ghauts have also suffered severely.

The Provincial Committee of Bombay adopted the system of placing the money at the disposal of the Collectors of the different districts. They have not succeeded in obtaining from the District Committees the regular reports prescribed by the Central Committee, nor have they submitted periodical reports and figures of their own, like other Provinces. Much detail as to how the money has been spent or the number of persons relieved is not therefore yet available. Some information, however, was collected by the Vice-Chairman on tour, and a set of reports collected by the Provincial Committee some time ago give sufficient material for explaining how the money is being spent.

The Bombay ryot, it may be premised, is, like the cultivator in the Punjab, undoubtedly a man of sturdy fibre who can stand pressure better than the cultivator in most other parts of India. There is a consensus of opinion that in the last twenty years the construction of railways has improved greatly his capacity to withstand famine.*

Consequently the demands made in Bombay on the Fund for Charitable Relief outside the Government system have been comparatively small, excepting for the respectable poor and weavers and also (this is a very notable exception indeed) for seed and the replacement of plough cattle. The shocking mortality of cattle, owing to want of fodder, amounting in one district to 75 per cent., called for additional grants to Bombay at the distribution of funds, both in August and September.

Object No. I.—Clothes have been liberally distributed, and in one district where there was no relief given by Government, the poorest classes were helped by a dole, and stone-breakers were protected from the sun. (The Provincial Committee recalled ₹25,000 from that district, as its needs were not very urgent.) The outlay is ₹1,06,536.

* This may indeed, without fear of contradiction, be said of the ryots of every part of India, not excepting the poor tenants of Bihar, which was once described by Sir Richard Temple as the blackest of black spots on the famine map.

Object No. II.—There has been little or no expenditure (only ₹1,002) upon orphans.

Object No. III.—Details are given of poor and respectable, even aristocratic, families so sorely pinched as to require aid. In Poona city and its environs poor Mahomedan *purdanishins* have received a monthly dole, but the Hindus, the Brahmins and Mahrattas would not accept it. The monthly cost is about ₹400 *per mensem.* In Nasik, Bijapur and other cities many very respectable and poor families have been assisted. The total expenditure is ₹50,588.

Object No. IV.—A Municipality was entrusted with ₹5,000 to assist the distressed weavers. Grants have been made to hill-people, whose supplies of forest fruits and roots have come to an end, to support themselves while preparing for the current season's cultivation. Large quantities of fodder have been bought and distributed free to save the remaining cattle. Up to June 15th, 1,163 bullocks had been purchased in one district, which were to be lent out for the summer crop and distributed in the winter. In that district 50 per cent. of the cattle had died, while in the next, Bijapur, the figure was 75 per cent. There the Collector hopes, by the aid of the Fund, to enable 80,000 acres to be sown which would otherwise yield nothing and rescue 7,000 cultivators at least by grants of bullocks and seed. The bulk of the fund is being spent on this object, the large balances in three districts being due to reservation for seed-grain in the winter, and partly to the want of grass in some places rendering it useless to distribute cattle till August. Outlay up to 31st July, ₹3,13,296.

Madras.

Madras. The most distressed area consists of a broad belt of country, including portions of the four Deccan or Ceded Districts, which, like the adjacent portion of Bombay, are peculiarly liable to drought. Ravaged by the great famine of 1876-77, from which they are said not even yet to have wholly recovered, they suffered from famine again in 1891-92 and have never enjoyed a succession of favourable seasons, and, along with restriction of cultivation, the failure both of autumn and winter crops in 1896 was, in some places, complete. Serious cattle-mortality has also commenced, and some ryots have been compelled to sell their animals, but on nothing like the scale of the Central Provinces or Bombay. A strip of country along the margin of two districts in the tract on the east coast, known as the Northern Circars,

adjoining the south of Orissa, is also suffering, and there is slight distress in parts of the Godaveri District. The proportion of poor ryots who pay a very small assessment is singularly large in the Deccan Districts, and there are one or two hill tribes in an unsatisfactory state. Grain has been specially transported up the Godaveri river for the relief of the Koyas, a jungle tribe which has suffered severely.

The Provincial Committee of Madras has been very careful of its funds, distributing them only as required. But its returns like those of Bombay are defective.

Object I.—At first gratuitous relief by the Government was very restricted, and the Fund relieved a large number of poor in the villages, but these have since been taken over and put on the Government lists. A small expenditure on clothes has been incurred (in one place persons of both sexes, belonging to the Chentu tribe, were found quite naked), and the Fund has assisted nursing mothers and children fed at the Government kitchens. The outlay on Objects I and III combined was ₹88,942, up to 31st July.

Object No. II.—No specific expenditure as yet.

Object No. III.—Not much information has been reported under this head, and the number of respectable persons relieved in the districts visited by the Vice-Chairman is small. It is understood that in the town of Kurnool there are many persons of this class who are being assisted.

Object No. IV.—The Provincial Committee has been vigorously exporting from Madras and other districts on its own account straw and fodder to assist the ryots in preserving their cattle and has incurred an expenditure of ₹52,942 for this purpose; and grants are now being made, as in other provinces, for seed, bullocks, and maintenance of the poorest cultivators till the harvest is ready. The distressed portions are divided into red and black soil, the first of which is cultivated in the summer and the second generally in the winter, so that donations for assistance in the latter tracts will be made later. Figures of persons relieved are not yet available, but up to 31st July ₹2,31,920-5-7 had been spent, and a sum of ₹5,10,000 had been allotted but was awaiting lists of persons to be relieved, before being paid over to District Committees. Total outlay has been ₹2,87,695.

Punjab.

unjab. The Delhi Division includes 6 districts in the plains. This is the area least protected by irrigation in the Punjab,

and it suffered severely from failure of crops both in 1895 and 1896. There are also other tracts in the Lahore and Rawalpindi Ditricts which are distressed. The Punjab cultivators are sturdy, but the mortality in plough and well cattle for want of fodder has been great, and the high prices and cessation of demand for textile fabrics, owing, as elsewhere, to astrologers stopping Hindu marriages, has caused intense privation amongst shawl weavers, embroiderers and other artificers, as well as great distress amongst the poor in the large towns of Delhi, Lahore, Umballa, Amritsar, etc.

This Provincial Committee also has not yet been able to give statistics of persons relieved, but from their proceedings the following information can be gathered.

Object No. I.—The number on relief works is small, and fund expenditure only ₹2,757; the principal relief under this head has been the distribution of blankets and clothes.

Object No. II.—No report. Expenditure has been ₹785.

Object No. III.—Under this heading come very elaborate systems of relief. Cheap grain shops have been opened in most of the large towns. In Lahore last April some 3,000 persons possessed tickets entitling them to grain 4lbs. in the rupee cheaper than the bazaar rate. At Amritsar in one fortnight 19,000 persons were so relieved. In Lahore (where ladies have done excellent work) and in Umballa, high-caste Mahomedan women are given spinning and sewing, for which they are paid. The outlay up to 31st July has been ₹1,87,328.

Object No. IV.—The bulk of the fund is being spent on grants for the purchase of bullocks and seed as elsewhere. The proceedings of the Provincial Committee show that all lists were complete in good time, and precautions had been taken for the distribution to be effected by the heads of Districts and their assistants. The very distressed district of Hissar, where the mortality of cattle was worst, received the largest grant, and the Deputy Commissioner has distributed ₹2,35,000. The accounts up to 31st July show a total expenditure under this head of ₹5,72,869. At Amritsar and Delhi the workers in embroidery and lace are assisted by the Fund at their trade.

Burma.

Burma.

As in the centre of the Deccan, so in the heart of Upper Burma, part of the territories conquered during the Viceroyalty of the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, exists a dry

zone, the rainfall in which is always precarious. Six years ago the tract suffered from famine, and the whole of one district and the greater parts of two others have on this occasion lost their crops for two years in succession. Emigration has been great and relief works have been carried on, but the people have had to part with their cattle wholesale, and the distress, as described by the local officers, is of an acute type, which has been rendered more severe lately by bad outbreaks of cholera and small-pox.

The famine area being small compared with that of most provinces, the Provincial Committee has been able to send the Central Committee complete accounts of the proceedings of the District Committees, as well as periodical provincial accounts, which are very full and interesting, indicating great care in the distribution of the money.

Object No. I.—Up to the end of June ₹6,053-15-0 had been spent and 9,120 persons relieved. Clothes for the naked, which were greatly needed, and samples of which have been sent to the Central Committee in evidence of their cheap and useful character, grants for railway or steamer tickets to assist the poor to go to Mandalay for work, and donations from ₹2 to ₹12 per family for subsistence, are the principal objects of the expenditure. Most of the gifts last named would probably come more suitably under Object III, including the relief of persons of good family connected with the expelled dynasty. Total outlay up to 31st July is ₹7,211.

Object No. II.—No expenditure is recorded.

Object No. III.—Only a small sum of ₹375 is reported.

Object No. IV.—The outlay under this head has almost all been expended on grants for seed to raise the first crop, which was first described to be flourishing, though later reports are discouraging.* Although many bullocks had been parted with, the funds were insufficient for the purchase of fresh animals. In this part of Burma, the village communities live together in patriarchal fashion, all on neighbourly terms, with the headman as their leader; so cases have occurred of those selected for grants insisting upon dividing the money with all their neighbours on the ground that all were equally distressed, that the money would go further, and that, as all would help one another with whatever each one possessed, whether with seed-grain or by the loan of bullocks

* On this account an extra grant of ₹40,000 was made to Burma on September 6th.

amongst themselves, it was only fair that all families should participate alike in the bounty. Up to the end of June 19,991 families had been relieved, at a cost of R1,20,294-10-0, the outlay up to 31st July being R1,47,514. The balance will be spent mainly on seed for the later crop, and probably upon cattle.

Berar.

The people of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts are, as a rule, singularly well-off. The soil is fertile, the rates of assessment low, and trade brisk. The native mercantile community is rich and very charitable, and the exports of cotton and grain are usually large. But the rains failed in August, giving a crop 75 per cent below the normal in some parts, and in spite of a fall of rain in November the winter cultivation was much contracted, the export of grain was stimulated and prices rose abnormally high, while wages of labour fell at the same time, owing to the cultivators having to curtail their expenses. Simultaneously immigrants from neighbouring distressed tracts, who often come for the spring harvest, arrived in unusually large numbers, some of whom this year came from places 200 miles away, trusting to obtain work and cheap grain. Immigrants from the Central Provinces and Bombay have been the most numerous, but some are to be found even from the North-Western Provinces. Thus the number of the poor who are distressed has been exceptionally high. Private charity has been dispensed on an unprecedentedly liberal scale, but assistance from the Fund was required and has been given to supplement it. One of the worst tracts is the hilly region called Melghat, where the jungle tribes have suffered from crop failure for two years in succession, and parts of the Akola and Buldana districts are also very distressed.

From the accounts of the Provincial Committee, the following information is to be obtained for the four months ending July 31st. Prior to March everything was done by local charity.

Object I.—The average number relieved monthly has been 28,556 persons at a total cost of R34,139. Large numbers of charitable poor-houses have been opened, to which liberal contributions in kind are sometimes given.

Object II.—The expenditure upon orphans has been small, only R1,601 in all, though the monthly average of waifs and strays assisted is stated to be 1,246.

Object III.—The average number of persons receiving doles monthly has been 9,538, at a cost of ₹26 9€5.

Object IV.—The statistics of persons relieved are defective, but ₹40,174 have been expended. Most of this has been devoted to the Melghat, regarding which the Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts, writes:—

"The Melghat money has been the greatest possible boon. I do not know what we should have done without it, and I think that the Committee may justly claim to have saved thousands of lives in the Melghat and helped to restore families in hundreds to their former positions as agriculturists by giving seed-grain and cattle. B. the Forest Officer writes that the distress there is still (7th September) excessive but the people everywhere say that we have saved them from death and starvation, and I really believe we have."

Central India.

The two most distressed areas, and they rank in the first class of acute distress, are the groups of states known as the Baghelkhand and Bundelkhand Agencies, all belonging to Native Chiefs, some of them very petty and poor. They adjoin the worst parts of the North-Western Provinces and Central Provinces and have suffered from the same causes. Parts of the Gwalior territory belonging to His Highness Scindia are also seriously affected.

The Maharajahs of Gwalior and Rewah have carried out a system of State relief on the principles followed in British territory, and so also, under the guidance of the Political Agents, have the smaller states according to their means. Of the sum of ₹3,25,000 allotted by the Fund, the Provincial Committee, under the guidance of the Agent to the Governor-General, has allotted ₹2,13,000 to Baghelkhand and ₹1,12,000 to Bundelkhand. The recent grant has all been remitted to the first-named province under the Agent to the Governor-General's instructions.

The accounts rendered show that up to the 30th of June ₹5,541 had been spent in Baghelkhand on Objects I and III, and ₹1,13,003 on Object IV. In May, under Object I diet was being given to 20 persons daily, clothes had been given to 376 persons, and the daily number of persons on relief under Object III was 1,377. In June the number under Object III had decreased to 1,075 persons, costing ₹3,084 monthly. In July the numbers rose to 2,821. Under Object IV seed was being given, grants for bullocks not being required, and a small sum of about ₹2 per head for subsistence

while cultivating. The Political Agent did not expect that his estimate, which came to R2,44,000 (towards which he has now received R2,13,000), would, even if granted in full, enable more than half the distressed ryots' lands to be cultivated. The number actually relieved under this object has not yet been reported.

In Bundelkhand under Object I, the Political Agent and his assistants have personally distributed R1 a head to emaciated persons on the relief-works, so as to enable them to add to their ration, and also distributed clothes. Under Object III, a few respectable persons whose permanent allowances from jaghirs have been stopped owing to hard times, have been assisted. Under Object IV, the Political Agent and other officers gave tickets to the ryots whom they found on relief-works, entitling them to a certain sum of money from the village banker, who had orders to pay it on the rains falling. This enables the family to obtain seed-grain and live during the season of cultivation. With the aid of one of the chiefs, 350 bullocks were given to persons who had sold or lost their animals; and the Political Agent has personally distributed some cattle in other places. The weavers, who were in a deplorable condition, have been helped with implements and stock-in-trade, and clothes have been purchased from them for distribution to those in rags. Up to the end of July 20,999 cultivators had received grants for seed at a cost of R86,646, and nearly 13,000 persons had been aided under object I, as well as a few orphans and respectable persons, the total expenditure up to the 31st July having been R1,01,165.

A request from the Political Agent, Gwalior, for a grant came very late, and the Provincial Committee have not apparently been able to comply with it. The Bhopal State, however, in June appears in the fund accounts, with local subscriptions of R2,206, which increased to R6,437 in July, and a grant was made by the Provincial Committee of R1,298. The expenditure so far has been small, and up to July 31st only 101 persons had been relieved at the Fund's expense.

Appendix F shows the combined expenditure in all the Agencies.

Rajputana.

Rajputana. In the extensive states comprised in this area, the relief organised by the different rulers has proved generally sufficient, and the pressure on the people generally does not seem to be so severe as in Central India.

The Agent to the Governor-General, however, applied for aid, and was granted a sum of R25,000, of which R19,000 were allotted to Jesalmir and R6,000 to Tonk. Of the former sum, R10,000 was remitted back to the Agent to the Governor-General, who allotted R4,000 more to Tonk. An application from the Political Agent, Bhurtpore, did not receive the support of the Agent to the Governor-General.

In Jesalmir it was found that local subscriptions sufficed for the first three objects, and R9,000 would suffice for Object IV.

In Tonk, under Object I, additional comforts in the shape of 4 annas a head is being given monthly to those who are on gratuitous relief, thus supplementing slightly the subsistence ration. Clothing is also being purchased for the infirm, aged and cripples. The total expenditure on this is estimated at R3,650.

Up to the end of June, 2,218 persons had been clothed at a cost of R1,278-4-1 (British). From 16th May to 30th June 2,102 persons were receiving a dole, at a cost of R255-7-0* a fortnight. In July the average number relieved under Object I every fortnight, was 3,334, at a cost of R2,023-0-6, and R376-12-4 were expended in the relief of 479 orphans.

Appendix F shows the expenditure reported under each Object.

Baluchistan.

A grant of R20,000 has only recently (July 20th) been made to the Agent to the Governor-General and Chief Commissioner of Baluchistan to enable him to relieve the sufferings of graziers, shepherds, and cultivators, the losses amongst whose herds and plough-cattle during the past two years have been very severe owing to continued drought in the sterile hills of Baluchistan. It is not possible as yet to give any account of the manner in which it is being distributed.

Appendix F (page 150) shows the receipts and expenditure of all Provincial Committees from the commencement up to 31st July 1897.

* These and the following figures are in Native Currency.

PART III.

DISTRICT AND LOCAL COMMITTEES.

Creation of local charitable organisations.

It must not be forgotten that before an appeal was made to England, Europe and the Colonies for assistance to the famine-stricken, Committees had been formed already in many large towns of India, which collected subscriptions to relieve the distress. Bombay, for instance, held a meeting under the presidency of His Excellency Lord Sandhurst on 22nd December 1896, and raised a provincial subscription exceeding two lakhs of rupees. Lucknow held a meeting on 15th October 1896, and collected about ₹36,000. At Allahabad a public meeting was held on 18th November 1896, at which ₹20,131 were subscribed in the room, and similar movements were initiated in many of the distressed parts, as soon as the certainty of acute suffering was realised. In some towns, such as Jubbalpur and Saugor in the Central Provinces, a poor house was organised two or three years before 1897. An account describing one of these movements, which may be truly called the beginnings of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, into which they were afterwards merged, will be found at page 48. The action taken indicates that, just as the Government were prepared for the famine, so private charity had organised itself in many places and was ready for the donations which it has had since to deal with, and a full account of these provincial and local movements will find a place in the Committee's next report. The brief summaries, too, which have already been given in Parts I and II, afford but little idea of the detailed way in which charitable relief is being actually distributed to the sufferers. Like the Central Committee itself, Provincial Committees do little more than allocate money to District Committees, although from their local knowledge they can and do generally exercise a somewhat strict control over the work that is done. It is, however, upon the District Committees, and upon Local Committees subordinate to them, that the subscribers have to depend for the money being fairly and judiciously distributed to those individuals who need it most. A selection therefore from reports that have reached the Central Committee will now be given, to illustrate—

(*a*) the various detailed forms which the relief has taken;

(*b*) the system under which individual objects of relief are selected, and
(*c*) the precautions adopted to secure that the relief reaches the right persons.

Those who are interested in the work of the Fund will prefer that the writers should tell their story in their own words. One of the principal objects of the Vice-Chairman's tour was to enquire into the above three matters, and he has much satisfaction in stating that nothing could exceed the interest and care which he found shown everywhere by those on whom the responsibility of selection and distribution was imposed. The fact that, with scarcely an exception, the Chairmen of District and Local Committees are the Magistrates of the District, is, in itself, a great guarantee against abuse, and the circumstance that the distress is everywhere much greater than the charitable funds for relieving it has acted as a stong incentive to economy. But the Government officials are so busy themselves that, in towns at least, they have had always to rely much on the help of non-official gentlemen, such as merchants and lawyers, or on officials other than those connected with the famine, such as Judges and Sub-Judges, in making lists of respectable persons to whom house-to-house relief should be given, especially to those respectable persons whose females do not appear in public. The assistance received in this way from private native gentlemen of high standing has everywhere been invaluable, and the manner in which professional men have devoted hours of their valuable time looking after the fund's affairs and administering relief is worthy of very high praise. Retired English officials have also, in some places, rendered excellent service, and so have many missionaries and ladies. It would be too much to say that no instances have been found of persons being given relief improperly, or even of malversation, but in the rare cases where this has occurred, discovery has followed immediately, and the irregularity has been at once stopped. The Vice-Chairman desires to record it as his opinion that on the whole, in the administration of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, there has been very little abuse or malversation.

Official heads of districts usually Chairmen.

Great part taken by private gentlemen.

To give a complete account of all the varying forms of charity during the Famine is impossible, and space allows only a brief selection from the numerous reports about them. The Committee owe a debt of gratitude to those who have,

in the midst of pressing work and anxieties, found time to supply them with information, and they hope that subscribers will find in the extracts which follow (which the Committee would gladly have multiplied) ample evidence that the Fund has been, and is being judiciously spent.

These extracts will be prefaced by an abstract of work done in one single district (Banda, in the North-Western Provinces) between March and June, so as to give an idea of the manner in which District Committees expend the Fund :— Specimen abstract of work done in one district in 4 months.

Object No. I.

	Persons.	Cost. £
Persons clothed (including a few to whom clothes received from England were given) . .	4,067	3,154
Children in poor-houses who were supplied with milk (daily average)	1,448	3,336
Other persons supplied with comforts in poor-houses (daily average)	1,319	
Persons on Government relief assisted with doles	30,100	37,913

Object No. III.

Respectable poor supplied with doles for the purchase of food (monthly average) . . .	3,234	20,138

Object No. IV.

Artizans and others assisted to buy materials for their trade	1,056	9,321
Poor assisted to rebuild their houses which had been destroyed by fire	156	1,118
Cultivators without means or credit assisted to buy cattle, seed grain, and with subsistence for the cultivators' family and cattle	27,143	3,30,605
Other persons to make a fresh start . . .	258	1,661
TOTAL .	68,781	4,07,246

It will be convenient, however, to take the four objects of the Government of India, and illustrate the modes of relief under each. Charitable Poor-houses.

Object No. I.—Supplementing the Government Relief.

The principal forms of relief under this head may be classified as follows:—

(*a*) The maintenance of Charitable poor-houses and kitchens for the relief of poor and distressed wanderers.

(*b*) The distribution of small comforts, such as milk and vegetables, extra articles of diet, or meals, to persons on Government relief works or in Government poor-houses.

(*c*) Money grants to supplement the Government wage on relief works or the gratuitous allowance paid by Government in villages.

(*d*) Blankets and clothes.

(*a*) *Poor-houses and kitchens.*—During famine these are Government institutions. Where an alms-house exists, or charity has of its own accord started one, sometimes the Government and the charitable institution continue side by side, sometimes they are amalgamated, and are then entrusted to Fund Committees to manage.

The following is an account furnished by the Honorary Secretary of the Central Provinces Committee of the Nagpur Poor-house, which was for some time maintained by charity and afterwards taken over by the Government :—

About the end of September, 1896, there commenced to flock to the city of Nagpur some strange people—men, women and children—all in a half-starved condition and showing unmistakable signs of having gone through great privations. Asked whence they came, the almost invariable reply was "Jhadi," the local name for that part of the old Maḥratta kingdom now known as the Balaghat and Bhandara Districts. Their unusual appearance at Nagpur was explained by the almost complete failure of the September rains, and the rice, which is the principal crop in their country, had withered up and failed. The people there are either agriculturists or field labourers, and the failure of the crop meant the loss of their only means of livelihood. Unfortunately there was no employment to be had at Nagpur, and they moved aimlessly about the town, begging from door to door. Miserable creatures a great many of them were, clothed in rags and reduced almost to skin and bone. One could at once see that they were not used to begging, and that it was hunger, and hunger alone, that had forced them to do so.

A Committee was formed, and a public kitchen (*Anna Chhatra*) was opened at a well-known local temple (*Sangameshwara*) and a commencement made by distributing there cooked food to all comers, irrespective of caste or creed. The cooking was done by paid Brahmins, but everything else was done by the members themselves and their friends. The sight was one to move the hardest heart. There were men, women and children in all stages of starvation; and in the case of some it was clear that relief had come too late. The stories they told of their sufferings as they left their villages where they had lived and laboured from generation to generation were full of pathos, and showed how much

these simple, honest people could suffer in their own silent, uncomplaining way. The first day the number did not exceed two hundred, but the numbers rapidly increased, and so did the cost of the institution and the strain on those who worked it. By the middle of October the daily number had risen to about a thousand, and a more regularly constituted organization became necessary. Mr. A. H. L. Fraser, Commissioner of the Nagpur Division, then called a semi-public meeting, to start a relief fund and constitute a Committee to administer it. About ₹14,000 were subscribed on the spot, the list being headed by a subscription of four thousand rupees payable in eight monthly instalments by the manager of "The Empress Mills." It was arranged to start a regular poor-house to house and feed the starving people. But it was felt that unless the opening of the poor-house was accompanied by relief works, the place would be swamped. On the other hand, it would be cruel to turn out even able-bodied persons unless they were provided with work. Accordingly, about the first week of November, the Deputy Commissioner opened relief works. About 3,000 people cheerfully flocked to them, and a month afterwards regular relief camps under the Public Works Department were opened in the districts.

The subscribers to the Poor Relief Fund appointed a Committee of management, and the Commissioner kindly placed at their disposal a Government officer of the rank of Tahsildar and a Hospital Assistant to manage the poor-house and look after the sick. At one end of the town there was an old Sarai or travellers' inn built under the Bhonsla Government, and it was made the centre of operations. Round about it were run up lightly-built sheds for housing the inmates, the Sarai itself being utilized for the office of the Superintendent, for storing the grain, for cooking the food, and part for Hospital purposes. The sheds were divided into wards, people of the same caste being, as far as practicable, lodged in the same ward. For lepers separate quarters were provided. Arrangements were made for a supply of pure water from the Nagpur water-works. The cooks engaged were Brahmins, so as to meet all caste prejudices. Excepting these cooks and about half a dozen others, the servants, numbering nearly 75, were all selected from among the inmates themselves. They have done excellent service, and have more than repaid the food they got and the small cash allowance and occasional gifts of clothing they received.

The inmates were fed twice a day, the meal in the afternoon being full and substantial. The sick were cared for by the Hospital Assistant, and there was always an ample supply of medical comforts for them. More serious cases were sent to the Mayo Hospital. Among the inmates were a considerable number of Muhammadan weavers. Being unaccustomed to stone-breaking, a weaving yard was opened in the poor-house and the men were engaged in cloth making. The work they turned out has more than repaid the expenses incurred. The cloth is still in stock and will be handed over to the District Committee, Nagpur, for distribution. Others who were too weak to be sent to relief camps, but who could

do light work, were given rope-making, earth work and light stone-breaking. Dhotees,* Saris† and Chaddars‡ of the value of ₹739 have been distributed from time to time to those most in need of them. The task of selection proved extremely difficult. Almost all were very scantily covered, and it was painful to refuse their piteous appeals for clothing, but, funds being limited, only those who were almost naked could be relieved.

Up to the 19th of November no register of persons was kept, but the number relieved up to that date could not be less than 15,000. In December 1896, 7,477 men, 5,222 women and 8,120 children were relieved, and in March the numbers grew to 7,077 men, 7,899 women and 18,339 children, including orphans. Up to the 31st March, upwards of over a lakh of people were relieved during the time the poor-house was supported entirely by private charity. From 1st April it was handed over to Government. The District Committee, Nagpur, continues to give the inmates extra comforts as contemplated by the first of the four objects of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. The sum of ₹10,882-11-5 was raised, out of which ₹10,541-11-11 have been spent, leaving a balance in hand of ₹340-15-6. This sum, together with monthly subscriptions due in the future have, with the consent of the subscribers, been incorporated with the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund and handed over to the District Committee, Nagpur.

Some incidents may be noted. Generally new comers would drop in during the evening. Families would be found travelling together, the father carrying on his head in a basket a child old enough, but too weak to walk, the mother with a suckling baby vainly trying to obtain its natural nutriment, and two or three children carrying bundles of rags and a few earthen pots, representing all the belongings of the family. Sometimes there would be the old mother walking with difficulty, supported by one of her grandchildren. They would sit outside the gate patiently waiting their turn to be examined. Asked whence they came, and why they came, they would name some severely stricken village and tell a sad tale of sufferings brought about by a succession of bad harvests in their part of the country. Many were once in easy circumstances, cultivating their own holdings, and owning, perhaps, their own cattle. Repeated failure of crops had, however, made their lands more a burden than a profit to them, and at last they had to leave their village and their lands, having lost every thing, including their credit with their Mahajans.§ To seek relief at a public poor-house was to such men most painful. Whether fit to go to the relief camps or not, they would be admitted and given their food for the evening, for almost invariably they would be found to have been without food, either partially or completely, for days together. Those who were absolutely without clothes would be given a dhoti or a sari, as the case might be. The ravenous way they would fall to eating as soon as food was placed before them is almost incredible. Sometimes

* A man's cloth.
† A woman's dress.
‡ A sheet wound round the body.
§ Money-lenders.

people would come crawling with difficulty and would fall down faint and ill at the gate. These would be taken up, carried to the Hospital and cared for. Despite every care many such would die. Often they would arrive after the whole stock of food had been distributed. The hope that they would find relief at the poor-house which had kept up their failing strength would then be gone and they would sink down, sick and exhausted, and sometimes die after a short stay at the Hospital. In cooking large quantities of rice a portion is often burnt. These burnt cakes were generally given to the cattle, but the people would fight for them and get hold of them and eat them. They would beg for this stuff with tears in their eyes.

Sometimes children would arrive who had lost their parents or whose parents had abandoned them or had become separated from them while travelling in search of employment or food. These were admitted at once and clothed and fed. Many mothers lost their children while in the poor-house. They would then become disconsolate and leave the place, although they knew they were going away with the chance of being starved to death. No amount of persuasion would induce them to stay. One mother and her two children, all of them ill, were sent to the Mayo Hospital to be properly taken care of. One of the children died, and the next day the mother and the surviving child were found missing from the ward. The day after, early in the morning, the mother was found outside the poor-house, which is about three miles from the Mayo Hospital, lying on the ground almost unconscious with the child by her side. It, too, was dead. She had crawled all the day from the Hospital to the poor-house with her sick child to be out of the place where she had lost the first one. Death soon after put an end to all her troubles.

Private poor-houses of the kind have been founded also at Jubbalpur, Saugor, Bhandara, and at other places in the Central Provinces. In Berar they are very numerous and are still supported privately. At Bijapur, in the Bombay Presidency, the Municipality was found maintaining a small poor-house. But as a rule the majority in course of time become merged in the Government institutions, thus setting free the money of the Fund for other and more pressing needs.

The use made of existing alms-houses may be illustrated by an account of a visit to the King's poor-house at Lucknow:—

The King's poor-house is an institution with an endowment of about Rs 1,100 a month, made by a former King of Oudh. It has quite the air of a quiet English alms-house, with a large quadrangle and a fountain in the middle Ordinarily the number of inmates, all men and women of a respectable class who have suffered privation, is a little over 200. Outside relief is also given and a leper asylum maintained from the endowment. Now the Deputy Commissioner has drafted into the house about 220 of the better class from the Government poor-house. The food, which we saw

being prepared, was excellent. On three Sundays in the month the inmates receive an additional luxury in the shape of vegetables, and on one Sunday, or 13 times a year, a meat ration. An annexure contains quarters for *Purdanishin* ladies, and Hakim Nasir Hussan, who accompanied us and who also has done excellent work in distributing alms, told us that amongst them were the daughters of one of the courtiers of the last King, whose father was a very wealthy man (keeping a stud of 100 horses) but who lost everything with the downfall of the Court. The Charitable Fund now allows R500 to the King's poor-house for the extra work it does.

Children's kitchens.

Mr. Hose, the Honorary Secretary of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Committee, recently visited (on 22nd July) some children's kitchens kept up by the Fund, and gives the following account in a private letter:—

We visited two children's kitchens where any lean children (and, I fear, a few fat ones) can come and get a meal once a day. These kitchens were started by F——, who found that it was necessary to make arrangements for the children in villages similar to those on works, when it was found that parents used their children's earnings on their own food, and he proceeded to pay the little ones in food instead of pice. I saw one of these meals on the relief work I mentioned. I have never heard such yelling in my life as the babies made when their mothers left them in the enclosure, for no mothers are allowed inside during the meal. F——, as I said, found that the children in villages were similarly neglected by their parents. He started a number of kitchens, working them through the Zemindars. The two kitchens we saw were both well managed, the food was good and there was plenty of it. In the first one about one-third or less of the children looked as if they required the kitchens; the rest certainly did not, and it is going to be stopped or much reduced. The second was different. A much larger number of weak, thin creatures were there, and quite 20 were very bony, I think there were about 70 in the first and 90 in the second. The men managing the kitchens seemed to be doing their work well, and when the children who do not require help are excluded, there will be no objection, I should think, to the Fund meeting the cost of feeding the weakly ones.

Timidity and singular delusions of the poor.

In rural places the wild ignorance and prejudices of the people are still so rife that in spite of the kindness of the officials and the extra comforts given by the Fund, poor-houses and kitchens, whether maintained by the Government or by charity, were in most places very unpopular at the commencement. In the Bijapur District, when children's kitchens were started, out of 3,000 infants only 3 would attend at first for fear they were going to be poisoned, the reason being that in the great famine of 1876-77 many children did die, being so emaciated to commence with that the good food killed them. And at Garwi, near Karwi, in Bundelkhand, where the children's feeding-place was fenced

in and roofed (partly for protection and partly to prevent the children running off to the relief works and drawing the money-dole given to the elder children who do not go to the kitchens), the infants all absented themselves, the rumour having spread that one day they were all going to be transported, *nolens volens*, to Mauritius, where the Government wanted colonists.

A report by Mr. Buldeo Narain Singh on the Azimgarh poor-house shows how timid and credulous poor natives still are in many parts of the country :—

The chief characteristic of these paupers as noticed by me in my ward was an extreme dislike for the poor-house in the beginning. They would rather starve and die of the pangs of hunger at their homes than go to an institution of the kind. Strange rumours were afloat for a time amongst the people about these poor-houses and gratuitous reliefs, to the effect (1) that a certain railway bridge was under construction in the river Gogra and that the Government was feeding them only to make them fat and then to send them to the spot to be buried under water for the propitiation of the goddess of the river; (2) that those who get gratuitous relief were being maintained for the purpose of extracting oil from their bodies by pressing them in an oil-machine. I have been informed that zemindars and the headman of villages had very great difficulties in inducing these stupid beings to accept the cash amount meant for them. These foolish rumours did not, however, take long to subside.

And an Assistant Collector in the Lalitpur Division of the Saugor District writes :—

When first the village relief lists were prepared, the Sahariyas of this sub-division, who are a jungle tribe with a strong pre-Aryan strain, circulated the rumour amongst themselves that Government wished to get the names of all useless members of the community, and that after feeding them for a time to get them thoroughly fit for the journey, they would transport them across the "*kala pani*"* to some distant land and there leave them. These rumours were never seriously entertained by the Sahariyas of villages adjoining big game jungles who knew that no district officer could possibly consider them, his best beaters, and indispensable when a tiger is about, useless members of the community. But in some villages far away from the usual haunts of sport the idea became strongly established. The Sahariyas of Lagon, a village in the Talbehat Pargana, left the village *en masse* on the patwari writing down the names of some of their number on the village-relief list, and only returned after being re-assured by a Deputy Collector; and at a recent visit to the village of Satarwans, on enquiring after the Sahariyas, I found that in this village they still objected to be written up in the Section 54 list.†

* Black-water, *i.e.*, the sea.

† A list of those to be placed on Government village relief.

And instances of this terror might be multiplied. At Fatehabad, in the Hissar District of the Panjab, the poor-house was first placed in an unused portion of the Dispensary, so the rumour spread that it was a lethal chamber where the people were to be poisoned, and at Bhiwani in the same District the Mauritius story was fully in vogue. Further curious instances of the rumours which these timid people believe will be found lower down (*vide* pages 55, 88, 101), but the fact that they are ultimately driven to the poor-houses proves the extremity of their need.

Troublesome paupers.

Town-bred paupers in poor-houses are at times very troublesome. A Native Officer complains:—

> People come to the poor-house calling us their parents, and saying that they would ever remain there. But after a few days they begin crying, asking us to let them go away. They make every sort of excuse: some say that they have lost their relatives; some that their houses have been destroyed by fire, and some say that their children are left behind with no one to look after them, and they ask us to let them go away. But when they are allowed to do so, they again return to the poor-house, asking to be re-admitted. Some of them are brought to the poor-house through the Police: they utter every sort of humbug at the time of admission. They do not mention their names when required to do so; and as they give false names, they do not remember the same at the time of roll call. They would not take the tickets, and if they do, they would lose them Women generally do not mention their husbands' names. When their names have been registered, they make lots of excuses to go away, and some of them try to escape stealthly. Some try to put the poor-house on fire in order to escape. Very many destroy their blankets, and do not eat anything. Many of them enter into the poor-house for the purpose of stealing something, and instruct their people to hide themselves near the Jumna and wait to receive anything they may throw out. Many of the poor have been found doing this.
>
> Though everything is given to the poor in accordance with the rules, they say that the thin breads supplied to them do not relieve them of their hunger. They complain that the breads are made of inferior flour and half of it is chaff. Some say that they have never seen or eaten curry with *ghee*. Some of the poor make their room very filthy, and when asked they do not confess having done so. They take delight in doing anything which they are told not to do. Some of the poor are well behaved, and do everything as directed: they take care of their clothes, and pray for Government.

Comforts given in Government poor-houses.

(*b*) In Government poor-houses usually only one substantial meal a day is given, carefully prepared according to the Famine Codes, under the advice of medical officers, consisting of bread, and soup prepared with *dall* (pulse) and

other condiments. This has been found sufficient to support life, and persons even increase in weight upon it, but the Charity Fund generally supplements it by a light additional meal, the nature of which varies almost everywhere. Frequently it consists of rice-congee or gruel. Sometimes it is simply an additional half-ration of the same materials as are given by Government, or a dish of egg-plant or onions, or whatever vegetable is locally thought most nutritious. Milk for the emaciated and for the children is given freely, except where the cattle have perished to such an extent that milk has become a rare and expensive luxury. In one place emaciated children were found being restored to life with the aid of Bovril, which theoretically is absolutely inadmissible to a Hindu, but being looked on as "English medicine" was taken freely, without any objection from Hindu gentlemen, even though its constituents were known.

Patent Foods.

Of all the medical comforts that have been administered, those mentioned above on pages 22 and 23 have been most popular all over India. The following report by the Provincial Committee at Nagpur, describing the Raipur District Committee's work, may serve as an illustration:—

Among the additional comforts, special mention is made of Mellin's Food, Triticine Food and Swiss Milk, received from the Central Committee. These are largely being availed of by the officers in charge of poor-houses, and with most beneficial results. In most of the cases, especially where Mellin's Food has been used, the change, after a few weeks, in the appearance of the children using it, is said to have been marvellous. From walking skeletons they became again the plump and healthy children they once were. Outside the poor-houses, however, it is pointed out that there is a prejudice against the use of specially prepared foods; and one missionary lady has been much exercised in her mind owing to the unexpected result of her using them for the children under her charge. They all left *en masse* after the first day's application, and rumours were spread abroad that she was giving them poison in the shape of medicine in order to save herself the trouble of bringing them up. One conspicuous feature in the local relief works is said to be the swinging cradles full of babies, all of whom are being provided with wholesome milk and attendants to swing them, while their mothers are at work. This is indeed giving extra comforts in a most useful manner.

Crèches.

And the Deputy Commissioner of Hardoi in Oudh writes as follows of Meaby's biscuits:—

The success attending their distribution has been so great that I think it right to tender my thanks through you to the donors. The biscuits are greedily eaten by children of all castes and have been of the greatest use in affording them from time to time an extra

meal. There are a large number of children in the poor-houses and on relief works to whom this additional food has been a great boon. A rumour arose in one part of the district that a 'Wilayati roti' (English bread) was given on the relief works which was so sustaining that a meal of it prevented hunger for three days. The 'Wilayati roti' was Meaby's biscuits.

If you have any more of the biscuits, I should be very glad of a further supply.

Other comforts reported to the Central Committee as having been given from the Charitable Fund (and even that is almost a necessary of life sometimes) have been the gift of tobacco to the aged, which is dispensed in Bengal and in the Punjab, and lime-juice to invalids.

Supplementing the Government wage or dole.

(*c*) Money grants to supplement the Government wages or gratuitous allowance are only made in special cases. Care, in fact, has been taken to avoid this, so as to prevent the Government and charitable schemes of relief overlapping. Help of the kind to persons on Government relief, however, is found from time to time most useful by the Government officers themselves. In one of the most acutely distressed districts of Bundelkhand a pice (one-quarter of an anna) was given from the Fund for two months to all on Government gratuitous relief, to help them to regain their strength. In most places, the Fund officials, if they find persons who for some reason or other, absence from the village or the like, have been omitted from the Government list, relieve them from the Fund, which is sometimes recouped by the Government. In other places the Fund is used to relieve the children of people who will not work, and whose children in consequence are suffering. And most officers have had a small advance of cash from the Fund with which to relieve piteous cases met with in the course of their travels, where unfortunate people, either from perverseness, stupidity, or sheer ignorance, are found wandering about, and suffering from hunger. Such people receive enough for a meal and are sent onwards to a poor-house or relief work. In this way the Fund has been found invaluable. And officers themselves occasionally give small grants of money to people actually engaged on State relief works when they show marked signs of privation.

An Assistant Collector in the North-Western Provinces states:—

The Object (I) money, given in sums of 4 annas to 1 rupee, has inspired far more active demonstrations of gratitude than the Object IV money, though of course its effect has been but transient Object

I money has been distributed only in cases of acute distress and usually to enable the recipient to avail himself of Government measures for relief. Instances of its distribution are as follows: Four annas to give a wanderer a good meal and enable him to reach a relief work. One rupee to provide extra comforts for a sick recipient of the village relief dole. Three to four rupees to save *purdahnishin* women from the hardship of a relief work, or the fancied disgrace of the daily village-relief dole."

(*d*) The boon which the famine-stricken owe to the Fund in grants of clothes and blankets to the naked ranks high amongst the most popular, and the need of more clothing is pressing. The Jabbalpur Committee (quoted by the Provincial Committee of the Central Provinces in their report for April) states :— Clothes and blankets.

The great demand of the Circle Relief Officers is clothing. The poor starving people who flock to work centres are, as a rule, nearly naked, or if they have a rag, it is so rotten, filthy and scant as barely to cover their nakedness, many being so badly off that they have to be given a covering before they can be put on work. They are also so reduced in strength that extra diets, such as milk, rice, etc., are absolutely necessary for them, especially in the case of children. All the Relief Officers report that they constantly come across people who are so weak that they have to be helped to reach the relief centres. Orphans or deserted children are also met with in almost every village.

And the following from the same district report for June is to the same effect :—

The District Superintendent of Police writes: "I have just traversed a tract and am going to another place where people have hardly a rag to cover their nakedness. Send me Rs. 300 for clothes." This officer has already distributed clothes to over 3,000 people. He says that wherever his camp may lie, his tents are surrounded by starving people, and as many as 700 have besieged him in one day. The Circle Relief Officers at almost every village have their way blocked by starving men and women, and there is no village where they have not to provide for deserted children. The funds, though liberal, are hardly sufficient to cope adequately with distress so severe and widespread.

The value of the clothing received from England is thus described by the Honorary Secretary of the Provincial Committee of the Central Provinces :—

I have already acknowledged with thankfulness what a boon the food and the milk have proved to the children and the sick. I have now to do the same and with much greater emphasis as regards the most welcome gift of cloth. No happier idea could have been conceived than that of sending these gifts in kind to clothe the semi-nude men, women and children working at the relief camps or receiving gratuitous relief at the poor-houses. But for

this most considerate and opportune act of bounty, our Committees with various other pressing claims on them would have been unable to do much under this head of relief. As it is, these special gifts have made thousands happy. The wants of our people in the matter of dress as in most other matters are few and simple. All that the women need is a piece of cloth about 6 or 7 yards long to wrap round their body and a small bit to make a bodice of. It is even cheaper to clothe the men. A *dhoti* 5 yards long is all that they need, and if you give them a strip to tie round their heads in addition, they are made quite happy. A coarse blanket does duty for a warm coat during the day and a quilt at night in the cold season and an umbrella during the rains. Our generous English donors not knowing our needs had sent us some costly cloths. These we could not well give away. We got more good out of them by selling them and investing the proceeds in the purchase of coarse cloths more suited to the wants of the people. As in the case of the food and the milk, some of the contents of the bales were sent to the Christian Mission and other orphanages at Nagpur and Jubbalpur and with the best results. The poor helpless waifs who are taken care of in these useful institutions have derived much good from them.

Mr. Cruickshank, the Commissioner of the Allahabad Division, in an official report on the poor-house at Khajua, mentions the joy with which clothes were received. The whole of the extract is worth quoting:—

> This poor-house was only started in the beginning of February on my visiting Bindki bazaar and seeing large numbers of emaciated paupers in the bazaar and neighbourhood. It has been the means of saving many lives. I recognised many forms and faces of those adults and children whom I never expected to see alive and well again. Some of the tiny children are still very thin, but have the light of life in their eyes and seem happy and contented. They much appreciate Mellin's Food and Swiss Milk and Triticene. To-day each man in my presence received a *dhoti* and coat and each woman a petticoat and wrap. All the children, too, were given the clothes suitable to their sex. Their joy and gratitude were worth coming many miles to see, and shouts of "Jai Maharaniji" * filled the air. Even the worst cases in hospital seemed to enjoy the scene of this unexpected distribution of gifts from the Indian Charitable Relief Fund.

Clothes received from England suited for the respectable classes.

Opinions vary as to the suitability of the clothes received from England. The Shahjahanpur Committee say of a bale containing 215 skirts and 132 *chaddas*,† that they are very suitable for *purdahnishin* women, the poorer class of whom

* Victory to the Queen.
† Sheets—wrappers—"*Saris.*"

require them badly. A lady from Pilibhit, however, reports on 7th July :—

My house is besieged from morn till eve by hundreds of women, most of them semi-nude. The clothes we have received are too fine for the women of the labouring classes. For them a coarser and stronger material is required, as they work on the fields and on roads, and rough usage soon destroys their clothes if the material is not stout. Nevertheless, I have given away a good deal of them, but most of the clothes have been given to *purdahnishins* and most respectable women who feel the need of clothes to a far greater degree than others. They are too ashamed to appear in public (in clothes that barely cover their limbs) and some cannot appear in public under any circumstances. For months they have been barely able to find food, and yet I have come across several instances where they have purchased clothes in preference to food out of the money supplied to them, preferring to do without the latter, as they simply could not appear in rags. I could distribute ten times the amount supplied to me. As for what they think of the clothes, it needs but a sight of my compound every day to understand how they appreciate them. I could, as I have already said, distribute ten times the amount and more, so eager are the women to have them and so great is the necessity. They consider them far better clothes than they have ever been able to afford themselves.

And the Sub-Divisional Officer of Lalitpur states on 8th July :—

The ready-made clothes so kindly sent out by Mrs. Hauser were distributed chiefly amongst the destitute women, who were badly in need of garments. The supply of clothes at this hour of need has been of great service to the poor, but looking to the number of sufferers, it was comparatively small. Those who got it received it with great admiration, and in fact most of them in their lives had not seen such elaborate costumes. One lady was very much struck with her gift. She put on the garment at once and went round and round in great rejoicing, like dancing a skirt dance. For the future I would suggest that the supply be restricted chiefly to *Lahavgas* (skirts) and *chaddas* (sheets) made of very coarse strong cloth, stiff like long cloth.

The Honorary Secretary of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Committee writes on 16th July :—

Yesterday, I saw most of the Collectors of the Allahabad Division, and they all told me that the clothing was far too good, although the people were very glad to get it. Perhaps they might find it possible at home to send out twice as much clothing if they used materials costing only half the price of those now used. We have an inexhaustible demand for clothing from now right on to February, I should think. You will also see that the clothing is of too fine a quality when you hear that the Agra Committee proposed to sell what they had been given, saying that they could buy three

or four times the quantity of clothing with the sale proceeds, while the Mirzapur Committee have actually already sold it. We have told Agra that it was intended to be given to *purdahnishin* women of the respectable classes, and we have warned Mirzapur that their action was not calculated to encourage the donors to send further supplies. From Agra they reported to us that the sale proceeds of one flannelette skirt alone would supply means enough to make up two whole suits for a woman. So probably one might say that the use of cheaper materials would enable the donors to send four times as much clothing and not only twice as much.

Distribution of clothes described.

And Miss M. E. Smith of the Zenana Mission, Gorakhpur District, writing on the 10th July, indicates the need of a larger supply :—

When we take clothes into the city hundreds crowd around us. As soon as possible we take refuge in a poor zenana and begin by giving to one or two of the inmates whom we know to be deserving. In the meantime, numbers have gained an entrance to the house and are sitting in rows eager to receive something. We give to the most destitute-looking ones, and then proceed to another house in a different part of the city.

A good share of the clothing has been bestowed on very poor purdah women and their children, whose sufferings can only be known to few; the other recipients were chiefly people who, owing to ill-health or age, are unable to earn anything. All who received seemed in sore need of something to wear, and we have seen many sad worn faces radiant with joy and gratitude. The children were delighted with the bright coloured frocks, and they expressed genuine pleasure and thankfulness. The sadder side is that the numbers of ill-clad are so overpowering that it was impossible to relieve even a tenth of them; we left many disappointed that they had been passed over.

Mr. Buldeo Narain Singh of Azamgarh states :—

Clothes have been distributed to the paupers of my ward under instructions of the Collector, as well as elsewhere. The good done to the suffering humanity in this way cannot be exaggerated. In fact they had hardly anything to screen their nakedness beyond a few pieces of rags about them, and it is really a great pleasure to see them perfectly clothed now. This being a town, things were naturally not so bad as they were in certain portions of the interior of the district, where some of these paupers were seen covering themselves with mats made of grass and leaves.

Mr. S. Abdul Hosain, Tehsildar of Rath, in the Hamirpur District, reports :—

People were in much difficulty about dressing clothes. Clothes have been distributed to those who deserved. On more than one occasion paupers of female sex and young girls were found in such a condition owing to their being without covers, for the clothes being

torn up or being insufficient, as excited the feelings of pity. Human nature caused the face of those around to turn away from them, as their modesty was shocked. On more than one occasion I happened to notice that modest women were unable to go to relief works for want of clothes. Such persons have been and are being provided with clothes.

Relief money was sent to a *purdahnishin* widow through her neighbour, a man before whom she used to appear before. The widow did not come before the man, concealed herself in the house and requested him to place the money on the threshold and go away. On making enquiries into the cause of this, it was discovered that she badly needed clothes, and that for want of them to cover the body she could not come out of her room in the house yard. On coming to know this, I forthwith sent clothes for her, and the distressed women in return sent word with thanks that it was due to the administration of the English people that the helpless women concealed in corners were taken care of.

A number of instances were met in which paupers were found to have extremely torn-up and dirty clothes on. A sight of these manifested that their clothes had not been changed for several years, and thus they were injurious to health should they be allowed to remain on their bodies. They were given clothes and the old dirty and torn-up pieces were put to fire.

Finally, the Lieutenant-Governor of Burma sends a graphic account of the actual distribution of clothes to the distressed people, which may be quoted *in extenso*:—

The following description is from the diary of Mr. Harold Hall. The method adopted was to take the whole number of coolies on the work, and to calculate what proportion of them were entitled to clothes. It came to about 8 per cent. Each gang of relief workers was then reckoned up and the headmen were given orders, showing how many men's, women's, and children's garments their people should have. They were directed to choose the poorest among their people and to bring them up on a Sunday morning at 6 o'clock to Mr. Sutherland's house on the works.

Mr. Sutherland made all these arrangements, and when Mr. Hall went up to the camp this morning he found the people there waiting. Such a ragged lot they were. Most of the men were either very old or infirm, half blind, some of them palsied in one arm and very poor. Not one of them had a 'gaungbaung' (turban) and their other garments passed description. There were but few men, for the proportion of them on the work is not great, but there were many women of all ages. They were from sixteen to sixty. Their garments were dreadful. Men in Burma need not absolutely wear jackets, and so their raggedness was confined to their *longgis* (waist clothes). With women it is otherwise. Women must wear jackets and they had all some sort of garments over their shoulders. Some had jackets of their own, old and worn, full of holes and very dirty. Some had borrowed jackets, or the cast-off

garments of some other workers, given them in charity. There were men's jackets that hung loose about them, women's jackets that were jackets but in names, and girl's jackets that the women could hardly put on, and some had no jackets at all, but only wreaths of cloths that they wound round them. Mr. Hall questioned many of them and the story was much the same. Husbands dead perhaps, but more often they had left them and gone to seek work where they could not follow. They had children always, little naked things that crouched beside their mothers. Among the children were many orphans.

The distribution began at once. The heads of gangs were called up and brought with their people. The numbers on the orders were checked and a coat and a skirt were given to each. The recipients took these very differently. The men took their gifts impassively. The women went away with theirs, fingering the cloth and looking at the sewing of the jackets and making remarks.

The girls were timid and smiled nervously, but the boys were delighted. As they each received their waist clothes and jackets, they beamed with delight. They danced and capered and they turned round and laughed at the bystanders; they could not control their joy. As each gang received its garments, the people went behind the house and put them on and then walked past with them on. The effect was good and they looked a very different crowd to the sordid, miserable people who were waiting when the distribution began. With each lot came several poor people to whom garments would willingly have been given, but this could not be. "There were so many in our gang," said one head man, "who want clothes, that I had hard work to choose, and others have come hoping to share also." But "others" had to go away disappointed. Still now and again Mr. Hall and Mr. Sutherland were able to make an exception. There came up at the close of the proceedings a very old woman. She was so old that she said she had forgotten long ago how old she was. She had two teeth left in front, and was very thin and withered, but she came and sat down before the members of the Committee and smiled very cheerfully. She was a widow without a relation in the world. The poor old thing was so delighted when Mr. Sutherland gave her a jacket and a skirt that she laughed out aloud. She came past presently with the new garments on, a bright red striped skirt and a white jacket, and not even the Burman children laughed as she passed. During the proceedings there was a small boy who took a great interest in them. He stationed himself on a stump just in front of the Committee and behind the row of people who were receiving their clothes. When any one lagged behind he assisted in calling him. When a boy danced with delight because of his new clothes, this boy danced too. Sometimes he would go away to see the metamorphosis in progress round the corner, and then he would come back heading the procession of newly clad people. When they went away he took up his position again. He was full of vivid approval of the whole procedure. Mr. Hall called him and asked him who he was,

and he said he had a mother on the works who was ill. His father died a month or two ago. His little sister also died. His gang had not yet received any clothes, but will do so at the next distribution. Mr. Sutherland gave him a waist cloth and a jacket that were left. When he put them on he shrieked with delight and ran off to his mother's hut. Thus ended that day's distribution.

From other provinces come similar accounts, but the above must suffice. In Madras only, where the distress is of a very mild type, the Chairman of the Provincial Committee states that clothes are not needed, and that grants of them are liable to abuse. Nor are they needed in Bengal or the Punjab. But the Central Committee earnestly trust that the supply of clothes from home for other provinces will continue. Very large sums have indeed been spent from the Fund in the purchase of native clothing, but when it is a question between starting a family in life once more, with bullocks, seed or money, and the clothing of fifteen or twenty wretched paupers of the labouring class, English Officers may be pardoned for the choice made between two evils, and their preference for expending the Charitable Fund so as to secure a permanent, rather than a transient benefit. But the need for additional clothing is great, and will last for months after the famine is officially declared at an end. Mr. Hose, as late as the 21st July, after visiting a relief work near Allahabad, writes as follows :— Need of more clothes.

Among the women on the relief work there were very many, and in those on village relief there were a few, who are in absolute rags. I will enquire if the local funds for clothing have run out, and see if we can spare some more. A great deal has been spent on clothes. Mr. A. at Jasra, which is quite close to the work in question has spent, I think, over ₹1,000, and when I saw him the other day in the station he told me he wanted more. And no doubt he does. Clothes will be in demand now right away to February, and the stronger and simpler they are the better. Just one long *chaddar* is all that the women here wear, and we could have given away five or six score of them yesterday to women, some of whom had no more upon them than some rags round their hips, with one loose bit that they had to hold up over their breasts with one hand.

Rough blankets as a protection against the rain and in the cold weather have been distributed in most places, in addition to garments, mainly to the old and debilitated. They cost from 14 annas to ₹1-8 a piece. The Chairman of the District Committee of Raipur in the Central Provinces states :— Blankets.

A very acceptable present has recently been received by this Committee through the Bengal Branch of the Fund in the shape of a

bale of woollen rugs; these will be utilised during the ensuing rains for the sick in the hospitals attached to the poor-houses.

Others were bought with money sent by the Ladies' Committee of the Indian Famine Clothing Fund in England to a firm in Calcutta, for expenditure on cheap blankets and quilts to be sent to the Central Provinces. Many more are needed.

Object II.—Orphans.

Orphanage at Allahabad.

The following is the Vice-Chairman's account of the Orphanage at Allahabad :—

In a corner of the enclosure was the Orphanage, containing some 30 or 40 little waifs and strays—all clean and neatly clad at the expense of the Charitable Fund, and looking moderately healthy. But should any one wish to create a sensation in England, he need only take a photograph of these orphans, as their little legs were like pipe-stems and the thighs of some of them, children of 6 or 7 years old, were no thicker than a baby's arm. Cholera and diarrhœa had swept away a great many—upwards of 70—in spite of every care and nursing. Therefore many had been drafted away, and, of those who were left, these poor things represented the healthy and strong. In all the Orphanages I visited later, I saw few such depressing sights as in that at Allahabad.

From the poor-house we went to the Children's Hospital, where the sick and very weakly were congregated. One or two of the little ones here presented spectacles I would rather not dilate upon, all the result of starvation. The expenses of their Hospital are entirely borne by the Charitable Fund. There was a motherly East Indian matron, looking kindly and even tenderly after the little creatures, feeding them three times daily with such delicacies as corn-flour and milk, and an intelligent hospital assistant was also present. We also visited the Children's Small-pox Hospital at some little distance off, in which were 15 inmates, most of them convalescents.

How came these children there? A great many were genuine orphans who had been supported by their relatives until the pinch came, and then they were cast adrift. Others have been deserted by their parents. They are collected by the Public Works Officers, Police, Tehsildars and others, and sent to the Orphanage.

Founding of Orphanage in Central Provinces.

Missionary Orphanages, in which hundreds and even thousands of children have already found happy homes, are too well known to need description. The following account of the founding of a private Orphanage at Bhandara in the Central Provinces is interesting :—

While inspecting the poor-houses at Gondia and Tumsar in December last, Rao Saheb Rangrao and the Revd. Dr. Sandiland found there many little children who had either lost their parents, or

been deserted by, or separated from them, and who, they thought, should be taken special care of. They accordingly decided upon starting an orphanage at Bhandara. Such of the children as were willing to come were accordingly gathered together and brought to Bhandara. They were twenty in all. One of them was a little Kalal girl of three years of age. Her's was a sad story. She had a sister about five years old and a brother aged about ten years. Their parents had died in the early stage of the famine, and they had strayed away from their home and had at last found refuge in the poor-house. The treatment at the poor-house did not satisfy the boy, and so one day taking his two little sisters with him, he wandered away. They could not travel far, and the elder of the two sisters lay down at the road-side faint and exhausted and soon after died. What became of the boy is not known. The little girl was found sitting by the side of her dead sister and brought back to the poor-house.

The orphanage was opened for such children as these. The distress in this district north of the railway line and towards Balaghat is very acute. While touring in this part, one day Dr. Sandiland came across a little boy, who ran after his cart and piteously appealed to him to give him some food. His mother, he said, had none to give him at home, and he had not tasted any for some time. He was taken charge of. In another village, in a hut, were found six little children, the eldest, a girl of about 14 years, all in a terribly emaciated condition. Both their parents had died, and they had none to look after them. They were also brought over to the orphanage. They are still under special treatment. Most of the children, however, came from the poor-houses. At the end of December their number was thirty, at the end of January forty. In February there was a serious outbreak of cholera, probably introduced by some child from the parts where cholera was raging at the time; and a good many were attacked, and some succumbed. The number at the end of February was reduced by death to thirty. At the end of March the number was 88. Up to December, the institution was maintained entirely by private charity. From first of January till the formation of the District Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, all expenditure was paid by Government. Since the constitution of the District Committee, it has paid R149 towards its maintenance.

The Chairman of the Raipur Committee states:—

Incidents in orphanages.

"The state in which some of these children reach these cities of refuge is well illustrated by a story related to me by a Missionary gentleman. News being brought him that a woman had arrived at his poor-house with two children, a boy and a girl, he went off to it as soon as he could, found the girl just dead, the mother in an almost dying state, and the boy, though greatly emaciated, apparently lively and in no immediate danger. He gave restoratives to the woman and then took the boy up in his arms and began to feed him with spoonfuls at a time; the boy was talking volubly

all the while of his sufferings on the road, when suddenly and without any previous warning, he expired in the Missionary's arms."

One sad little anecdote of a poor-house orphan is narrated by an Assistant-Collector in the North-Western Provinces:—

A few days ago while two of us were looking over a poor-house about dusk we found a small naked urchin weeping inconsolably in a corner. We asked what was the matter, and he told us his father, a high caste Thakur, had died a few days ago, and he, the eldest son, had no means of paying him the customary funeral honours of his caste. "What were they?" The distribution of a little grain to his poor caste fellows. "How much did he require?" About a penny worth. The officer in charge corroborated the story of the death and the child's trouble, so we took him with us to our camp and sent him back to the poor-house rejoicing with his coveted grain. Poor little soul, there was something very pathetic about the little naked orphan sobbing in the poor-house yard because he wanted to feed the hungry.

Children in some parts of the country are as averse to entering orphanages as their elders are to entering poor-houses. On the other hand, in the most distressed districts parents are constantly found bringing their children *suo motu* and handing them over as the only means of preserving their lives, sometimes promising to reclaim them. And while a boy has been known to desert an orphanage and find his way across country 150 miles to the poor-house from which he was taken, another boy, after a Missionary had finished his selection of boys in a poor-house, ran amongst the girls and, unblushingly denying his sex, demanded to be taken away to the Mission Orphanage as a girl.

The following incidents are taken from a letter by the Revd. Dr. Johnson, an active member of the Jubbulpur District Committee, written on the 24th May :—

"A man, a simple villager, came with his little boy and begged us to take him, saying he might be able to support himself but could not support the boy, and unless we would take him, he would die of starvation. He said to the child, 'you remain here, and be a good boy, and you will be well cared for, and if I am spared, I will come to see you when I can do so?' The parting words were very tender and affecting. In a few days the father went into the poor-house and died there. As I was visiting the relief-works one day, I saw a very lean babe and learnt that it was but four days old, and its mother, a Brahmin woman, was that day carrying dirt in a basket on her head earning five pice a day. I asked her if she would go with me if I could find a home for her, which she was very willing to do. Her husband had died a short time before the babe was born. We cared for her

about six weeks, when a good Native Minister, whose wife is a doctor, came along and took twelve orphans and this widow, and is caring for them in his own home. The great number of dependent ones can but become greater, until the crops to be sown in July mature. God be merciful, and give us a good October harvest."

But, as already remarked, the main expenditure upon orphans from the charitable fund will be incurred when the famine is over and permanent arrangements for the orphans' support will be made.

Object No. III.—Relief of respectable persons.

The forms which this object takes comprise the following :—

(*a*) Money allowances to poor widows and respectable persons to prevent starvation.

(*b*) Cheap grain shops.

(*c*) Work given to private and respectable persons at home for which they are paid.

Money Allowance to respectable widows and families.

(*a*) This is one of the most important objects of the Fund and the papers testifying to its value are so numerous as to make a selection from them difficult.

Government relief is always attended with a certain amount of publicity. But there are innumerable cases where people value their self-respect so highly that it is difficult to make them accept even charitable, much less Government, relief. In fact were it known that they did so, they would lose their caste, which is dearer to them than life. So the names of the recipients in many places are kept a profound secret. Were it not for the Fund, many of these people would have perished miserably, unknown to the Government, from starvation. In a large number of cases, no doubt, *e.g.*, of poor "*pardahnishin*" Muhammadan women, the Government could have arranged for relief, and women have been known suddenly to become "*pardahnishin*" to entitle them to the Fund's liberality : but this was not in a place where the distress was severe, and in no case is Government relief so welcome as that of charity.

A lady's work in Lucknow.

The following, dated 5th April, is an account of relief in Lucknow administered by a lady of the Zenana Mission, who is trusted by the Committee, and by none more than by the Native members, with an expenditure of R1,000 a month.

Everywhere the services done by English ladies in distributing charity has been of the highest value.

You request some information concerning the distribution of famine relief amongst *purdanashin* women in Lucknow. So I send you an account of my yesterday's experience.

A long drive between 6 and 7 A.M. brought me to the part of the city where I knew my coming would be anxiously awaited, and where I was quite sure of a warm welcome; for whatever indifference there may be about dates in *general*, the *particular* date on which it is hoped the monthly amount of help will be given, is sure not to be forgotten.

The first house which I enter pretty clearly indicates that the inmates cannot know much of the comforts of life at the best of times, and must be sorely perplexed how to live at all during famine time. There are several mothers with children who tell the usual story, either their husbands are dead, or they have deserted them, or if they have neither died nor disappeared, they cannot or will not earn anything to support their families. It is impossible to discover their income, for they declare they have *none:* this can hardly be true; though it is easy to believe it must be very *small*, and so one can confidently and happily give them some much-needed help. Then various old women, of which there is never any lack, but who seem to have wonderfully multiplied of late, tell their tales of woe: one is blind, or nearly so, another deaf, and a third emaciated by illness, and all alike in having no one to provide for them; and as they receive what will at least keep them alive for another month, they shower blessings on the heads of those who have thought of and provided for them. One old lady accidentally produces the wrong ticket (which is given to all who receive relief) and thus reveals the fact that she has been receiving it from two sources, and thus obtaining a double portion; however, seeing that she has divulged her secret, she is wise enough not to fight against the inevitable, and meekly gives up one of her cards.

The next house only contains one family, a very unusual case. The husband, a respectable educated man (Muhammadan) earns his living by teaching; but though they are able to live comfortably in ordinary times, it is a great struggle now, especially as one of his pupils has died, and it is difficult to get new ones. The wife, on whom the heaviest part of the burden falls, is made most happy and grateful by an addition to their small income: a small child proudly disports itself in an entirely new costume, on which one of the precious rupees given last month has been spent, while a still smaller child affectionately clasps a pumpkin as her share of the spoils, and informs me that now she gets potatoes to eat. House No. 3 always makes my heart ache; it is so utterly bare and miserable—just one barn-like room with no verandah or courtyard, and almost dark. Its furniture is one bedstead and two broken-down wooden stools. These nearly fill the whole space, so that there is little room besides, and here the family, consisting of the man and his wife, two married

daughters with a child each, and a boy and girl spend their days. Their lot is all the sadder because it used to be so different; at one time they possessed a large house, but they have sold it all but this one room, and from being the owners of comparative wealth they have become the poorest of the poor. "You have brought us back to life again," they say as they receive their monthly allowance. Like so many Muhammadan men in Lucknow, the head of the family has never done any work; he had no need to do so in former days, and now he is too old and decrepit to do anything if he could. The women, too, have never needed to work, and so they are not able to either; they have lived selling their belongings, but now these have come to an end, and if it had not been for outside help, it would have been very hard for them.

In house No. 4 the inmates have a similar history, having come down from plenty to poverty. The family consists of a mother with a married daughter and two children. The son-in-law did nothing to support his wife, but took everything he could lay hands on to gamble, so the mother, being the owner of the house, turned him out, and now the two women live at any rate in peace; though according to their account, they have nothing to live on, and would starve if they were not helped. A short walk brings me to another house which has many inmates. The old lady who holds the various relationships of mother, mother-in-law and grandmother to the other members of the family told me that she was related to the late King of Oudh, and used to be in good circumstances, but now things are changed, and with her, as with many others, the chief problem of life is how to live. As she finished her story, she added: "I never even told my own sister what I have told you now." The first time I suggested she might be glad of help she declined it, but afterwards consented, only begging that it might be given so that it would not be known, so now as I go in I am careful to select a seat close beside her, where the rupees I have brought can be slipped from my hand into hers, without any one, but her daughter, who is in the secret, knowing what is going on. Just across the road is another house where live two aristocratic-looking old ladies. It is quite easy to believe that they also belong to the Royal Family. "We used never to *think* of our food, but only to eat it when it was prepared for us; but now at night we think what shall we eat in the morning and in the morning what shall we eat at night," are the words in which they describe their circumstances. It was a trial at first to think of taking outside help, but now they receive it gladly. The people who live next door to my two old ladies are quite different. They sent a servant one day, as I was passing, to ask me to come and see them, and then urged their claims without any misgivings. They, too, are well connected, and sometimes I have my doubts as to the reality of their needs, but in a work like this one must be contented to be taken in sometimes, for that is inevitable when truth is at such a low discount as in this country. There is one old lady here who believes in getting all she can; and, having received her allotted portion, usually has some further request to make: one day it is clothes, another day more money. However, such cases are very rare, and

almost without exception those who are receiving the help provided for them are most satisfied with what they get and very grateful. They often say "there was never a famine when so much was done to help us."

The cases which I have described will give some idea of the work done amongst the better class of Muhammadans. In some ways this is the most difficult, as it is not easy to discover whether real poverty exists, when it is concealed under a certain amount of respectability. The only safeguard is that this class of people will not ask for it unless it is a real necessity, but even to this rule there may be some exceptions.

A much larger class with whom I come in contact are those a degree or two lower in the social scale, where the men receive a small pension (which, however small, they will try to live on rather than work), and the women slave to embroider caps, for which they are wretchedly paid. Now there is no demand for their work; and just when they need it most, it cannot be had, or, if it is given, the payment is less than ever. It is an unqualified satisfaction to help *these* women, because they would so willingly help themselves if they could (the same does not apply to the men), and there can be no doubt as to their needs. There is a picture of a family of this description which comes very vividly before me as I write.

The dwelling-place is a small grave-yard adjoining a mosque which some charitable person has been kind enough to let them have the use of. The inmates are two women and two children. The elder woman in answer to a question says: "My husband left me a long time ago and I have never heard of him since," "and mine," says her daughter, "died six months ago." "Cannot you do any kind of work?" I ask. "Yes, we used to do embroidering, but now nobody wants it, and the last we did we only got two pice for one hundred patterns, besides we cannot go out to look for it." And so they sleep on one of the graves at night, and cook their food in a corner of this grave-yard; and the only day which has any brightness is the one when they are again reminded that they are not altogether forgotten or uncared for. "You have brought our children back to life," they say, and such words as these repay a hundred-fold any trouble or labour which is taken to bring help to those in such sore need, and would also repay those who cannot see or hear for themselves but show that notwithstanding they can *feel*, and feeling give.

Similar accounts by ladies who have distributed relief in the ancient capital of Bijapur and the sacred city of Nasik, both in the Bombay Presidency, have been received; but the above must suffice as an illustration.

Relief to pensioned sepoys.

The Committee have been favoured also with the following note by an Assistant Commissioner on the military pensioners of the Jhelum District, showing how they are

affected by the present scarcity, and assisted by the Famine Relief Fund :—

I do not consider it necessary to quote any particular instance of a native soldier retired on his pension, and unable, without help from the Famine Relief Fund, to support himself and his family. Such instances are but too common in this district; and I have met and talked with many retired native soldiers in their villages, and on the relief works, where several were working under me as "mates" in charge of gangs of relief-workers. It must be remembered that Jhelum is a great recruiting centre. Men from the Jhelum District enlist not only in regiments in the Punjab, but in regiments in all parts of India. The Bombay regiments have men from Jhelum; men of this district are serving in Africa and Burma. A Hong-Kong regiment is full of them. The reason why so many enlist is probably that in many parts of the district the land, being cut to pieces with stony ravines, is so utterly unproductive, that a man to earn his bread must go elsewhere; or, at any rate, one son of the family must go, and by his service as a soldier contribute his little quota to the family purse. The amount of the remittances made in this District by sepoys to their families is very large.

Now, it often happens that the native sepoy, from some cause or other, retires on a pension long before there is any necessity for his leaving his regiment. It may be that he enlisted in the hope of rapid promotion, and, being disappointed in this hope, decides to go, or, it may be that the head of his family has died; there is trouble at home; there is no one to look after the family property, and he must go and do so. He takes his pension of about four rupees a month, and returns to his home. Of his pay he has saved nothing at all; it has not been possible for him to do so, for any small balance he might have saved after paying for his food is certain to have been absorbed by the many relations who came to live upon him directly he became a Government servant. Still, his small monthly pension makes a pleasant little addition towards the household expenses in a year when the crops are good, and there is no cattle-sickness. But then, a bad year comes; there is no rain, and consequently no crops nor fodder for the cattle; the cattle die and the "bunniah" * begins to be troublesome (just in the same manner as the British tradesman) about his "little account." The sepoy finds himself with practically nothing in the world beyond his meagre pension to support himself and his family. The *res angusta domi* is more apparent than ever, since it is an absolute impossibility for a man to keep body and soul together on the little food he can afford himself. It is then that he turns to the Sirkar for help, for he would rather starve than beg or do the work of a low-caste man for a living.

In the present year of famine and scarcity, it has been possible for the District Officer to help this class of people with the aid of the money sent out from England. In many cases this has been done by establishing cheap shops, at which holders of tickets can buy their grain at a price much below the ordinary market-rate. It is the

* Shop-keeper and money-lender.

principle of the London soup-kitchen; but there is this difference, that the respectable poor in India are very difficult to reach. A man who has been of some position in the village, and who has fallen upon bad times, will rather starve than openly ask for charity, and rather suffer—and make his family suffer too—than humble his pride and publicly apply to the District Officers for relief; when the only relief possible might be the doing of some daily task on a relief-work for a daily pittance. It is here that the benefit of the money so handsomely subscribed in England is felt. With the portion allotted to him, the District Officer can cause relief to reach those persons who are too proud to beg, and the recipients are fully cognisant that the taking of this welcome relief causes them no shame, no degradation in the eyes of their fellows, since the relief is not given before the eyes of all men.

It is, I take it, a fact that the knowledge of the generous way in which people in England and the Colonies have subscribed towards the Indian Famine Relief Fund will do incalculable good among many classes of native society. And one of the most important of these classes is the one whose members enter the service of Her Majesty as soldiers. It is tolerably certain that the ordinary agriculturist, whose understanding is bounded by the promptings of his stomach, while receiving the relief readily enough, has no appreciation whatever of the fact that the relief comes to him out of the pockets of persons, most of whom have never set foot in India and who only know of his condition through the newspapers. But it is otherwise with the native soldier. He is a man of some education; he understands and knows more of the ways of the white man; he can understand and appreciate the fact that, in these times of trouble, the subjects of the Great Queen, of whom he is or has been a servant, are helping him. This knowledge cannot but be of the greatest value as regards recruiting, and as regards the keeping alive of a good feeling in the Native Army.

The native soldier, undoubtedly, sees one more good trait in the character of the British nation, the members of which he knows by experience to be strong, powerful, just and humane rulers, to whom the poor man never turns in time of trouble without sure hope of succour.

Reluctance to accept charity.

The Reverend Mr. Thomas, a Baptist Missionary at Delhi, and member of the Executive Committee of that town, gives numerous instances of cruel hardship relieved from the Fund, and the great reluctance of respectable people to accept charity. He points out that in Delhi City there is a *work* famine as well as a *grain* famine, and adds, writing on behalf of his Committee:—

Sad cases might be multiplied indefinitely. Bedding, clothes, cooking utensils—everything saleable, have been sold, and at last they have been driven to appeal for charity. Many have taken tickets but refused to use them until they could hold out no longer. Others

refused to give their names, thinking that they would be worried in some way in their family affairs; but finding that that is not so, have at last yielded. We thoroughly sympathise with their desire for privacy and do all in our power to ensure it. With this bewildering sameness of poverty and need your Committee is endeavouring to deal and will continue to do its best to distribute the money you place at its disposal. This utter dearth of work is likely to continue another 4 or 5 months, and the need for help will go on increasing until the demand for lace again revives.

Careful selection of respectable persons to be assisted.

As a general rule, the lists of persons to be relieved under Object III by a money grant are made by native gentlemen of high position, submitted for sanction to a Committee, and distributed in person by one of the members. The Vice-Chairman, at Lucknow, himself went with two native gentlemen, one a Hindu and the other a Muhammadan, both professional gentlemen, to whom time was of value, and he can testify to the business-like, yet considerate, way in which the relief was paid. The following reports by the Collectors of Cawnpore and Bijnor show in one case the system usually adopted, and in the other the importance of the Charitable Fund.

The Collector of Cawnpore reports:—

The city is divided for the distribution of relief into 19 circles, each of which is in charge of a native gentleman. The city fund is managed by an Executive Committee of four and of a sub-committee. The Executive Committee draw cheques and give them to the distributors. The sub-committee meets and makes suggestions to the Executive Committee. Each distributor keeps a register showing who is relieved and how much is spent. Their work is supervised by a number of Government officials,—the Joint and Assistant Magistrates, the Treasury Officer, Tahsildar, Sub-Judge, Munsif, etc. All cheques are signed by the Honorary Secretary of the Executive Committee and by one member.

The Collector of Bijnor adds:—

By far the most important work done has been aiding women of the *purdanashin* class, who cannot appear out of doors. Many people of this class, chiefly widows, eke out a poor living by grinding corn and doing a little sewing or thread spinning at their own houses. With food so scarce and expensive as it has been, people have taken to grinding their own corn and doing what sewing they cannot dispense with at home, and thus these poor women's means of subsistence have been cut very low. They live chiefly in the towns and larger villages, and I hear of them coming out at nights when they cannot be recognized to beg for a handful of grain. It is very difficult to get at these through Government officials, as their pride forbids them letting their want be known. Further, living in towns, they are not so generally known or so easy

to find out as people living in small villages. Committees have accordingly been formed in 17 towns of respectable gentlemen of the town; the town is divided into circles and a member with local knowledge takes each circle and prepares a list of those requiring aid. His local knowledge enables him both to find out who really require aid, and to tell who have any means of subsistence. A small amount of money (the highest sum being R2 or *2s. 6d.* per month) is then distributed by the members twice a month. Even here one of the difficulties which has been experienced is that many who need and will accept aid are unwilling that their names should appear in lists.

At first an attempt was made to supply work instead of money to those able to work. It was found, however, rather difficult to dispose of the thread, etc., which resulted, and now the aid is given in money alone.

From the large town of Patna in Bengal the same need for relieving the poor people who ordinarily do odd jobs for their neighbours, but have lost employment owing to the high prices of grain, is reported, and the same mode of relief has been adopted.

A native official's account of relief outside large towns.

An account, printed *verbatim et literatim*, from a native official of the relief given to respectable classes may conclude this part of the subject.

I have personally distributed the money of Charitable Relief Fund in the large villages of Rath Tahsil, and in those which I could not visit myself promptly, the additional Naib Tahsildar has done the work The money has been given in the hands of those persons for whom it has been proposed. In the case of a family having male members, in the hands of the head (Mukhia) of the family, and in the case of *pardanashin* widows, through some trustworthy and respectable inhabitants before whom they could appear. Relief has been given to 1,119 persons in 72 out of 180 peopled villages of this tahsil from the Charitable Fund, and it is generally given to respectable Hindu and Muhammadan males, females, and their children.

The above number also includes a small number who, looking to caste, are not styled as "respectable," but who became "respectable" by business and wealth in former days, and the vicissitudes of time subjected them to misery and difficulties. They are just like respectable persons in the matter of modesty and honour. It also includes some respectable petty zemindars who possessed but a very small property or had the property encumbered with debts, and who in these days of distress could not get loans or have their property sold; and it includes a few cultivators too. They consist for the most part of Brahmans, Thakurs, Kayasths, and respectable Muhammadans, and of few other caste-persons. Women and children form the largest proportion. In every village respectable distressed persons, who were in difficulties, had no means of support, and who preferred undergoing all sorts of sufferings caused by

hunger and bearing its consequences to going to relief works, have been selected for relief through the leading inhabitants of it.

At one time it was noticed that a man of an old respectable family was in distress, who, being led by shame and modesty, did not disclose his straitened circumstances to his neighbour. The latter, a woman, happened to go to his house to fetch fire, and there she came to know that fire was not lit in the house since a day before. (*Note.*—Not lighting a fire, or the hearth not being hot, is an Indian technicality for starvation.) The neighbour returning home revealed the fact. By chance I was in the village on that very day and learned all about this. I called that sufferer before myself and gave him relief. He with downcast looks accepted the relief, though he did not speak a word, but the motion of his lips indicated that he was offering his thanks. Once it was found that a respectable family having a big house was suffering from starvation. The signs of infirmity and dejectedness were apparent on the face of the head of that family. He used to pretend to be sick to those who enquired of him. A friend called on him, and on his asking for *Huqqa*,* the latter, a man of respectability but in sufferings, bent his head down with tears in his eyes. The sensible friend, perceiving his inward condition, returned home and sent some food for him, pretending that he had some *Puja* (worship) at his house on the day. The next day I got the information and gave him the relief out of the Fund.

Similarly, it was ascertained about a Hindu gentleman that he was in great trouble, deserved relief, and that he declined to accept it on the allegation that a relation of his had come to know of his state, and that he, the sufferer, was expecting help from him, the relation. I kept an eye over the matter to see if the help expected was given. Though that very day the sufferer received the help from his relative, yet I made arrangements through a special man to let me know instantly if the said relation withheld his help at any time. Again, I happened to learn the sufferings of a Muhammadan belonging to an old family of position and respectability. The relief money was offered to him, but he refused to take it saying that he could not accept charity. He was then told to accept it as a *Karz Hasna* (a loan bearing no interest, and repaid at the pleasure of the borrower). The lender can never demand it, nor has he hopes of its recovery. The borrower, if unable to repay, is free from the religious punishment of non-payment of a loan. To advance such a debt is a very virtuous act. He then accepted the grant, and uttering that his royal nation's generosity preserves their lives by a variety of plans and arrangements which had never been thought of.

Finding a Muhammadan respectable family in trouble, relief was offered, but he refused to take it. But when he was called to a secret place and the relief money paid, he thankfully accepted it. Relief-money was being given to a respectable man, a relation of whose said: "Was he taking charity?" The poor sufferer replying

* A hubble-bubble.

that it was not charity but an human sympathy of Europeans (*Sahib Log*), and that to refuse it was to refuse the blessings of God; so he took the relief money. None of those receiving relief and those present at the time of distribution thereof was found so as not to give utterance to these words—"The English have saved the country, may God maintain the rule in perpetuity."

The Fund has also completed the relief given under section 54 of the Famine Code to minor children, whose allowance was a little insufficient, by the increase of one pice, and it will result in the improvement of the coming generation. In short, the Charitable Relief Fund removes to a considerable extent the difficulties of the paupers and sufferers, and it is fully impressed on the minds of people of high birth and old respectable paupers specially that they are out of the danger of a coming calamity.

Value of this kind of charity.

The Central Committee may add that numerous other reports, containing details of sad cases of respectable but poor persons relieved, and mentioning the reluctance shown by many to accept relief except in the very last resort, so as to save themselves from death by starvation, are on their records, and they wish once more to emphasise that they have ample proof, not only of the consideration shown in assisting such cases, but of the fact that, but for the Charitable Fund, deaths by starvation might have occurred amongst these classes, in parts of the very distressed areas.

Cheap grain shops.

(*b*) Cheap grain-shops, though not perhaps appealing to the imagination so much as the rescue of those who are absolutely starving, have been of the utmost value.

Description of system.

The Vice-Chairman, in his "Notes on Tour," has reported on the systems he saw in vogue at Lahore, Nagpur, and Amraoti. The following epitome of the system in force at Delhi may be quoted, from the pen of the Deputy Commissioner of that place:—

When the cheap rate system was first started, certain shops agreed to sell grain at the cheap rates fixed by the Famine Committee. Every person entitled to purchase at these rates was given a duplicate ticket. This he presented at the shop; the buniah* then entered on the tickets the amount sold and the date, and returning one to the purchaser kept the other as a voucher. Each ticket allowed a certain amount of grain to be purchased at a cheap rate during each week of the fortnight for which the tickets were current. The difference between the market rate and the cheap rate was then paid, with a small percentage for the clerical work. This system had to be abandoned, as it was impossible to fix a market rate for grain sold retail for the period.

* Shop-keeper.

This was followed by the present system, under which the Committee have established three shops under direct management. Corn is bought in bulk, and sufficient for the requirements of the shops are sent from the central godown. The money collected from the sale of corn is lodged in the Bank every second day and credited to the Fund. The tickets are issued by a Sub-Committee in each ward, who have reported on each individual case. These reports are sent up to the Central Committee and the returns scrutinised by members of the Committee, and any cases which appear doubtful are further tested. As soon as the Central Committee has passed a name as deserving a ticket, the name is brought on to the general register, and a ticket with a number corresponding to the register issued No further enquiry is made. If the ticket has been used during the previous month, a new ticket is given for the next month, but if the ticket has not been used, enquiries are made and appropriate orders are passed.

The Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, notes that "in both Delhi and Umballa fraud was prevented by the close attention to the matter exercised by the Central and Sub-Committees."

Elaborate checks required.

This close attention has been found everywhere, with the result that the fund which pays the difference between the market and the special prices, is economised, while thousands of respectable persons, to whom the saving of even a few pice is of importance, have been relieved in almost every province. In illustration of the elaborate arrangements made in order to prevent abuses the headings of the register kept at Lahore and the Deputy Commissioner's description of the system may be quoted, though the checks vary everywhere:

(1) Number assigned to relieved person, being also number of his ticket.
(2) Name and father's name.
(3) Age and caste.
(4) Address and occupation.
(5) Total number of dependents in the family.
(6) Remarks as to the means of livelihood.
(7) Detail of persons needing support, *i.e.*, (*a*) children with age, (*b*) females unable to work, (*c*) widows unable to work, (*d*) old, infirm, and sick.
(8) Amount of grain allowed daily.
(9) Date of enlistment.
(10) Name of section officer.
(11) Remarks.

On the 15th November the above registers were distributed among the section officers, with a request that they would have them filled in as early as possible. Simple and practical rules of business were also framed, and a Sub-Committee appointed to check the registers and to audit the accounts. Terms were made with Lala Dulo Mal, a leading grain-dealer in Lahore, to open four shops for vend of grain to the ticket-holders. The sites chosen being (1) Anar Kali, (2) Water-works reservoir, (3) Chauk Jhanda, and (4) Akbari Mandi. From 19th November 1896 relief operations actually began, every ticket-holder getting wheat at the rate of 12 seers per rupee, while the bazar rate was only 8 seers. Lala Dulo Mal, the Committee's grain-dealer, generously came forward to give 1 seer per rupee on his own behalf, and 3 seers per rupee were given on behalf of the Committee. At first some of the people were a little reluctant to get their names registered for relief, but in a very short time the advantage offered was appreciated and soon the number of families on relief registers began to swell to large numbers; and by the end of December we had about 4,500 ticket-holders (each of whom may be held to represent one family) on the registers, with a tendency to future increase, each man or woman getting from 1 to 3 seers concession per rupee. The Committee, feeling itself unable for want of funds to meet the whole of this large demand, was obliged to restrict the number of tickets in the different sections, and now we have about 3,000 names on the roll. Owing also to the want of funds the concession allowance had to be reduced from 3 to 2 seers, which affords still a fair relief, and is appreciated by the recipients. From the 29th November up to the 8th of December 1896, the total amount paid to the grain dealers by the Committee was R2,016-3-6 as its share of the concession rate. As in the beginning there was some unavoidable delay in the issue of the tickets, and as all the registers could not be filled in in time, the amount spent was not high; but during the month of January, when the operations have been in full swing, the Committee will have had to spend about 5,000 and odd rupees. The accounts will soon be in the hands of the Committee; but, from rough calculation, I can say the Committee's expenditure will be between five and six thousand rupees for the month of January.

In spite of all the necessary checks, the Vice-Chairman noted everywhere that the sales proceeded with perfect smoothness, and there was no greater delay in serving customers at the special shops than at an ordinary shop in the bazaar.

One of the best points about the cheap grain shop is that the people are sure of getting good clean grain. In Raipur the adulteration which used to be 2 per cent. is said to have risen since the famine to 8 per cent. The Honorary Secretary of the District Committee reports that when the cheap grain-shop was opened, not only did the current market rates at once go appreciably down, though the equilibrium was not

long in re-establishing itself, but instead of adulterated rubbish sold as an apology for rice, stall-keepers began to unlock their reserve stores and offer better grain for sale.

Giving work to respectable classes, by ladies and others.

(*c*) Two of the most interesting reports received by the Committee are from ladies at Lahore, of which the Committee regret there is only room for one, for the very graphic report by Miss Bose, of the Victoria School, is too long for insertion. Altogether about 1,100 women are being given relief in the shape of work by three or four ladies, and the physical labour and trouble, especially during the hot weather, have been very severe.

In Lahore.

The following account is from Miss Healy and Miss Fox of the Z. B. M. Mission:—

The women whom we have been relieving by the aid of funds granted us by the Central and Municipal Committees are chiefly Muhammadans. The number now receiving help is 400. We began relieving these in January, by giving out a weekly supply of raw cotton which the women could take with them to their own homes to spin. As so many applied for the work, we limited the supply to a maximum of 2 lbs. for each woman, and the pay for spinning to the regular bazar rate. At first we gave the highest rate which could be got for nicely-spun cotton, but on reducing the pay to a lower rate, only one or two women grumbled, which proved that only the deserving and really needy were being assisted. By far the larger number of those to whom this work is given are either widows or those deserted by their husbands. Of the latter, a great many come in utter destitution, as they are often disowned, not only by the husband, but by his family also, who refuse to aid them in any way. Broadly speaking, the women may be divided into three classes:—

(1) Those who are of highly respectable origin, but who, through misfortune or the ill-doing of those who should support them, are left almost destitute. Such women, having often been brought up to a life of ease and comfort, find it very difficult to help themselves, and from motives of family pride, etc., dread to have the fact made public that they are receiving charitable aid in any form. These come to us privately and so manage to escape the disgrace of having their name entered in any public register, or their case investigated by male agency. One such case has especially come under our notice, where the husband is suffering from some mental disease almost amounting to insanity. He formerly earned a salary of R150 per mensem, but has for years been unable to do any kind of work. In the earlier stages of his illness he sold all his household goods and his wife's jewels, and squandered the money on luxurious food. His wife, a refined and well-bred

woman, is given a little help by her only child, a youth, now earning R5 per mensem, but as he has himself to support, he can allow his mother but a small pittance out of that sum. Another sad case is of a Hindi widow left absolutely alone, and who can do nothing but a little spinning to earn her living. This woman is of a high caste, as is also the woman of whom the above account is given.

(2) The second class comprises those who in times of plenty are well able to earn a living by embroidery or sewing, but who are now out of work. With these may be included many women whose fathers, husbands, or sons are thrown out of employment on account of the general depression, and who usually do not work for their own living. In one case, a widow and her only son have no means of support since the boy has lost his work. One very sad case occurred in which an old woman, who can do fine leather work, had been unable to get employment which supports herself—she is a widow— and her orphan grandchild. The boy was taken ill on being given a bit of bread after starving for two days, and in this way the story of the old woman's poverty was revealed.

(3) The third class is of those who are always dependent on the generosity of their more fortunate relatives, who, however, in these hard times have more than they can do to find food for their own children. Of these one poor widow may be mentioned, whose only child, a crippled girl, earns R1 monthly by helping in a girls' school. The relatives find it impossible now to help them to the same extent as before, and the mother thankfully takes the cotton for spinning. In another family, a widowed mother, her widowed daughter, and three children and one other child have absolutely no sure means of support. The father was employed under a gardener, but only earned four or five rupees monthly at the best of times, so that the whole family has been more or less dependent on the gifts of relatives. These examples will shew the need for continued help until prices are much lower than at present; and the number of applicants who still crowd for the work, even when told they will be given less to do and less pay for what is done than at first, proves that many who at first would not take help are now reduced to the necessity of doing so.

n Bengal. A letter dated 10th April from the Collector of Pabna in Bengal, to the Bengal Provincial Committee, gives additional testimony to the devotion of ladies to this kind of charitable work :—

I forward to you a letter received to-day from a lady who

is in charge of a circle in this district. I doubt if there are many ladies engaged in distributing relief out in the villages at this season. The writer of it lives in a bullock cart. I only wish I could send you a photograph of that cart and its surroundings in the days when paddy is being given out. In this circle no actually gratuitous relief has been given so far, such is the necessity of economising funds, though, as Miss Arnold says, it must be given in the immediate future. Relief is administered by giving out paddy for husking, and, when the husked rice is brought in, the worker is allowed to keep a certain portion as food. Applicants are registered and given a printed ticket as they come (except those who for want of funds have to be turned away), and as far as possible their circumstances are enquired into at their homes, but as many come from 7 or 8 miles round this cannot always be done. All the persons receiving relief are *women*, mostly widows, but many, I regret to say, wives who, owing to the hard times, have been basely deserted by their husbands, the latter having run away, leaving in some cases, as I have seen myself, a young wife of about fifteen years with a baby of a year old, quite unprovided for and unprotected. The women of this district cannot do earth work like the women up-country, and but for the relief given they would have no employment and have to live by begging or to starve. According to the number of persons in the house 40 or 80 pounds of paddy are given out at a time (the distribution is made twice a week, the other days being utilised for settling up accounts and making house-to-house enquiries), and out of the 80 pounds it is rigidly required that 46 pounds of cleaned rice shall be brought back. The maximum of cleaned rice that can be got from 80 pounds of paddy is 54 pounds, so that a family of 4 or 5 is left 12 pounds of rice to feed themselves for half a week, or something under 1 pound per head per day. If the paddy is of an unusually coarse kind the outturn of husked rice from so many pounds is less in proportion. I am sure no one who reads this could accuse us of extravagance, and yet for this pittance we have 350 women coming on each date of distribution from all parts of a circle of 7 miles radius and sitting patiently all day in a temperature of over 100° F. (if they are lucky enough to find shade) awaiting their turn for measurements. Last time I visited the place I calculated that Miss Arnold, assisted by a Bengali man and a Bengali boy, had to manipulate in weighments during the day something like nine tons of paddy and rice, besides keeping the registers. Another 150 applicants could be put on the register in this circle at once if funds permitted, but there is work elsewhere also; and, much to her distress, as her letter shews, I have had to limit her weekly expenditure to a dead loss of R200 after re-selling the cleaned rice. And this reminds me that our Local Committee at Pabna have even had to ask this lady to turn shopkeeper under these trying circumstances, as it was found that the local grain dealers with their usual philanthropy were taking advantage of our forced purchases of paddy and sales of rice to cheat us in and out, and cause a loss both to us and to the starving consumers which neither can afford to bear.

In Hazaribagh, another Bengal District, cotton is given out for spinning for a very small wage :—

The raw cotton is bought locally at the market rate of 2½ seers for the rupee. It is given out to women of good castes, and women of lower castes who are physically unfit for earth-work, to be made by them into thread.

The making of a seer of cotton thread takes from three to seven days, according to the skill and ability of the worker. We are giving five annas per seer to the workers, or an average relief of one anna per day.

Great care is being taken by every Local Committee to give the work to suitable females, *i.e.*, those in really distressed circumstances and unable socially or physically to work on earth-work. The number at present is about 600, and this number is likely to be considerably increased as the distress deepens and mufassil arrangements are perfected.

With the thread thus obtained we are giving employment to the numerous *Jolahas* or weavers in the district, whose circumstances are notoriously bad, and who in a year like this are unable to earn a sufficient income by ordinary dealings. These *Jolahas* have agreed to weave the thread at rates much below the prevailing rates. This shows they are in real distress.

The Honorary Secretary of the Punjab Provincial Committee in forwarding an extract from a graphic letter by Miss Pratt, a Missionary lady of the Roman Catholic Church at Umballa, which is too long to quote, remarks—

You will see what valuable help is being rendered by the Missionaries, and especially by the ladies, at this time. The ladies have taken up the work most earnestly, and exactly in the way that has been thought by the Central Committee and by our own Committee to be the best. They quite realise the undesirability of distributing absolutely gratuitous relief and all who can work are helped by being given tasks of works to do for payment.

Everywhere we hear the same thing, that women are too proud to go out into the bazaar where grain is being sold at cheap rates with the aid of our funds. They would die rather than bring on themselves such degradation. We hear, too, on all sides that scores of people on the verge of starvation will not accept gratuitous relief. Given work to do, they do it gladly and feel no shame in taking the money they have earned.

It is sad to think what the state of many women must be in towns where we can get no such agency as that of the Missionary ladies to convey to them relief in such a way as they can accept.

The last observation is sadly illustrated by the account of a lady missionary in an outlying village in the Central Provinces, who relieved during the month of May 120 high-

caste women and distributed rice and parched grain to starving women, children, and infirm persons, and has given details of very mournful cases in which, thanks to her mission, poor women have been rescued from famine.

Object No. IV.—Starting in life again those who have lost all.

Practically, three-quarters of the outlay so far has been devoted to this object, which includes the measures taken, even during the currency of the famine, to prevent professional workmen and cultivators from sinking into complete ruin. The relief of weavers and artizans has everywhere received special attention. The illustration that follows is from a Barrister, Mr. Gour, whom the Raipur District Committee have entrusted with this branch of their work:— Giving work to weavers and professional workmen.

The District Committee's operations in this connection commenced as early as February last, when tentative advances of Rs 10 a loom were made to 15 weavers, and they were told to bring as good cloth as they could for the money, when further advances would be made.....The news of this spread abroad, and within the next two or three days the Deputy Commissioner was inundated with applications from weavers from even the remotest corners of the district. Similar treatment was accorded to these applicants. Subdivisional officers in charge of relief works also began to apply for sums wherewith to make advances on the same terms, and the Committee freely gave such amounts as were asked for. At the outset some fears were expressed as to the safety of entrusting weavers with advances, but actual dealings with them showed that there was no cause for apprehension. There was only one instance, and that in the case of one of the nomadic classes of weavers, the Momins, of failure to fulfil obligations. So mutually sympathetic indeed did the weavers prove in their common affliction that they with alacrity stood security for each other, and the faithfulness with which they have, as a rule, acted up to their promises is a strong indication of their being fully alive to the sentiments of gratitude for the timely assistance given them by this Fund in the hour of their sore need. One or two illustrations of this will suffice. One of their comrades, who had received the usual advance, having died of cholera, his fellow villagers, rather than that the Committee should suffer loss, silently and undemonstratively contributed each his mite towards making up the amount necessary to meet the dead man's obligations. The same thing was done, and equally unobtrusively, in another village, in the case of a man, whose stock of cloth, which he had woven for the Committee, was burnt with his cottage. The amount of self-sacrifice involved in such conduct will be better appreciated when it is stated that out of the advances made to these artizans, they cannot earn more than four rupees a month at the outside to support themselves and their families, which

in very rare instances consist of less than five members, and they have in many cases aged parents to support as well. Residing, as I do, in close proximity to the offices of our Committee, I have had many opportunities of noticing the manner in which these poor people stave off their hunger during that period of unavoidable delay while their individual cases are being enquired into. Although we were willing to help them with a free cooked meal, these men would not partake of it, even though orthodox Brahmin cooks were provided. Caste was the formidable barrier that stood between them and the free kitchen, which was in full swing on the relief works only a few yards away. Some of the lower castes of weavers would go to my butler and ask him for rats trapped during the night: these some of them actually roasted and ate. The upper classes of weavers allowed themselves to be actually famished at home before they would even come to ask for an advance. They generally brought with them a handful of parched and fried gram with which they managed to stave off temporarily their pangs of hunger. Seeing this, we commenced giving them subsistence allowances pending an enquiry into their case, and though they of course received this with more than ordinary delight, very few spent the amount on themselves, and whatever advances were made were carefully stowed away for their families at home.

During the first month of our operations the amount advanced by our Committee was rather over R4,000, representing relief to at least four hundred heads of families, but the system having now developed, our advances are now on a far larger scale, and during last month (May) alone they have aggregated over R10,000. In all, and including the advances made by us to Sub-Divisional Officers for weavers, we have advanced nearly R18,000 up to the date of writing this report, and we have thus been able to extend relief to over 2,000 heads of families, representing, with their dependents, some 14,000 individuals relieved under this head of relief alone; and I can hear nothing but a chorus of grateful voices in praise of the benefactors, who from the far side of the *Kalapani** have played the rôle of "the Good Samaritan" towards their distant and unknown fellow-subjects in the far-off east.

The Provincial Committee add:—

The Government refunds the value of all cloth prepared under the above system and not distributed in relief by the Committee. Mr. Oswell, Honorary Secretary to the Raipur District Committee, writes: "Other classes of artizans being relieved by us are represented by workers in brass, tin, copper, and even in silver and gold, and also bangle-makers, all the distressed amongst whom are in receipt of advances from the Committee to enable them to pursue their respective callings without falling into poverty, and so swelling the ranks of paupers, already an inconveniently large class. One special object of such an organization as ours is to keep people as much as possible on their feet, or, if they have already fallen in the struggle, to set them on their legs again."

* Black water, *i.e.*, the Sea.

As a matter of fact the cloth made by weavers under the system of Charitable advances is almost always distributed amongst the destitute and naked, so that two objects of the Fund are served. In Bijapur and some other districts where weavers are numerous, the Committee only purchase locally-made cloth.

Purchase of implements.

The cases where weavers have been assisted to buy looms, or other artizans the implements of their trade, are rare in comparison, for the reason that during a famine a loom is unsaleable, and those who visited the Indian Exhibition in London must be aware how very simple and inexpensive are the tools of the ordinary artificer. Instances are, no doubt, numerous in the aggregate, where men of these classes, having parted with everything, down to their last brass pot, have been aided with grants to buy another set of implements. Ploughs have been given to cultivators and even coolies in one district were granted one rupee each to buy spades, shovels or pickaxes.

Largest portion of fund expended in assisting cultivators.

The reports before the Committee, however, deal mainly with the measures taken to start in life again the most important class of small peasants, whether proprietors of their own land or possessed only of tenant-right, whom a succession of bad seasons had absolutely ruined. This has been infinitely the most valuable and widespread form of relief, starting afresh, as it has done, hundreds of thousands of small farmers, who from want of security to give, could not obtain advances either from the Government or the money-lender. Government has, it is true, lent out vast sums on liberal terms to those from whom there was a chance of repayment, but the Fund has relieved those whom even Government could not assist.

The relief given to cultivators has taken the form generally of money-grants (gifts in kind are noticed lower down) to enable the ryot to buy—

(*a*) Plough and well bullocks.

(*b*) Fodder to keep his cattle alive.

(*c*) Seed-grain, and

(*d*) Food with which to support himself and his family or labourers during the sowing and weeding season until the crop is ripe.

Distribution of money-gifts effected by

The distribution has been almost everywhere entrusted to the district officials of the Government. In towns, where educated and intelligent Native gentlemen are to be found, the

Government officials.

District Committees could depend upon them almost entirely for the selection of persons entitled to charity. But in villages, where, besides the village money-lender, the only person who can read and write is the Patwari or village-accountant (by whatever name he be called) who keeps up the village records, the system has been for this writer and the head of the village (Patel or Lumbardar), or the local Zemindar, to make out jointly lists of the most distressed persons. These are checked, with the aid of the village books which show details of every man's holding, by the Kanungo, or circle officer who supervises the village-accountant, again by the Tehsildar, or Native Magistrate, to whom the Kanungos are subordinate, and finally, on the spot and in the presence of all the villagers by an English Officer, an Assistant Collector, or a Circle Superintendent, possibly, during this year of Famine, by a British Subaltern, one of the many Military Officers who have been put on special duty to aid the Civil Authorities, and whose intelligent and admirable work in charitable no less than in Government Relief has been appreciated and praised by none more cordially than by officers of the regular Civil Service.

Hence, it follows that most of the reports received by the Central Committee about the distribution under Object IV are written by officers of the Government, in their capacity as members of Fund Committees, and as the grants for all the different kinds of relief, *e.g.*, for seed-grain, fodder, bullocks, etc., were usually given at the same time and place, separate accounts of the distribution of each have not generally been written:—

Account of disribution in Oudh.

The following is a graphic narrative by a young member of the Indian Civil Service, employed in the very distressed district of Hardoi, in Oudh:—

This district is divided into four "tahsils" or "ridings" of which the Hardoi "riding" contains a population slightly exceeding three hundred thousand souls: the intensity of the famine is clear from the fact that some 13,000 are gratuitously relieved, while a like number is supported on road works. This "riding" is again split up into ten circles, over which is set a native revenue-official (Kanungo); each Kanungo has some twenty smaller circles within his larger circle, each in charge of an inferior official (Patwari). Early in May a grant was made for this "riding" of eighty thousand rupees to be distributed under this object. In this country the biblical ox is employed for dragging the plough: the latter is no modern contrivance of steel and blue paint, but an old-world thing of wood, very rough, and primitive, not unlike the engravings in a

Homeric glossary. In average soil a yoke of good oxen can plough about ten acres ; accordingly it was decided that a yoke should be the limit, though in cases of small cultivators a single ox was deemed sufficient ; the price of a yoke of sound oxen varies from twenty-five to thirty-five rupees : the mean was taken, and thirty rupees reckoned as a fair price. This eighty thousand was first divided under the heads of "oxen and seed"—₹25,000 for the latter and ₹55,000 for the former. These sums were divided in proportion to the population among the ten "kanungo" circles and, in turn, the patwari circles, until each village had an allotment roughly proportionate to the population and prevailing distress.

Then came the question how was the money to be distributed among the village folk.

The simplest plan would have been to present a lump sum to the headmen of each village with instructions to make a fair division. Such means must have been fatal to the end in view, and a small amount only would have reached the cultivators.

A compromise was adopted. Patwaris were ordered to prepare lists, from the revenue records at hand, showing the amount of land held by each cultivator and actually cultivated, with the numbers of oxen used in its cultivation during the past four years. These lists were to be used as a check, and could be depended on when reference might be necessary. Then the headmen of the village were to make a list of their own nominees, which patwari, kanungo and revenue officials were to scrutinize and annotate. The final decision lay with the European Famine Officer, who had all the facts of the case to hand. A date was then fixed when each circle was to be present at head-quarters to receive the money. Meanwhile the Famine Officer made enquiries on his rounds of inspection. He rides up to the village green, saying in a cheery voice, "You'll get fourteen yoke here." A look of grateful contempt is seen on every face, and in chorus they exclaim plaintively, "A mere nothing, we want a hundred yoke at least." He is hardened to such a reception and asks to see the list—a dirty slip of yellow paper covered with illegible scrawls. He enquires who the first nominee is, and the second: a slight hesitation, the headman confesses the former is himself and the latter his baby son : it turns out that he has at least four yoke of oxen and pays a yearly revenue of four hundred rupees. The list goes on the same style ; the consequence is that the whole thing is annulled, and the several landholders are asked to nominate needy tenants ; after much wrangling and disputing, a fresh list is made and signed, and the interview ends unsatisfactorily to all parties except those whom charity delighteth to honour. One land-holder was most amusing: ten yoke of oxen were allotted to his village ; asked for the list, he produced from the most hidden recesses of a scanty costume a dirty scrap of paper, containing his address, then his personal history and misfortunes, after which this document declared that he had nominated himself as the most deserving case for the whole ten yoke, below which was duly appended his full signature and titles. Loath to disappoint him, it was gently

explained that he had mistaken the objects of the Fund, whereupon he philosophically nominated the most deserving cases.

On the day fixed for distribution, a steady stream sets towards head-quarters: the lucky nominees are there; there, too, are seen those with a grievance duly written out in the form of a petition, which ends with the assurance that some villain is your humble servant, and will ever pray for your long life and happiness, always prefaced by an outrageous demand of some kind. Then, too, there is the patwari, vulture and shepherd in one, the land-holder, and the riffraff of the village community: all alike attended by a stout iron-bound quarter-staff and many by big white umbrellas. The arrival of the Famine Officer is the signal whereat a sea of handkerchiefs are set in motion, which however prove to be the aforesaid petitions.

Then the distribution begins: they are marshalled up to the receipt of custom, village by village: the name is called and the money paid with an injunction to buy oxen and produce them on a certain date when seed will be likewise disbursed. A certificate is given to each recipient, declaring the conditions whereon he receives the money. Many an aged cultivator shook with excited joy as he felt thirty silver rupees put in his hand, which he said he had never held so much before. As a rule their mien was apathetic: they hardly realised it was a free gift, and many thought it was merely a loan. The unfortunate widow was very much *en evidence:* it is embarrassing to be assured by some eager female that she will sit on your steps day and night till she gets her petition granted, a threat which she literally carries out. At first a large class thought it too good to be true and on the first two days absentees were numerous: news soon spreads, and afterwards one had no complaint to make on this score. There is a very general idea, no doubt fostered by the plague precautions, that this charity in all its branches is merely preparatory to a great scheme for transporting large numbers across the "Black Water," whereby they mean to the Andaman Isles. This idea prevented a certain number coming forward, though it is gradually losing credence.

The question of identity is a difficulty: caste and father's name reduce claimants, but a pure love of prevarication induces numbers to give a false name for no appreciable reason. On the other hand, a man is often known by his wife's father's name as well as his own. A man is literally known by the fact that he is his own father's son. One Brahmin boy, a fat little fellow, "clothed on with chastity," answered every name, and each time disputed his right with the true claimant, whether thakur * or chamar †: at last he was induced to state his own name and his persistent dishonesty was rewarded with the price of an ox, which however was intrusted to his mother with the warning "not to buy sweets."

The distribution occupied ten days, as the lists required a certain amount of scrutiny, and numerous disputes had to be roughly settled.

* A high-caste Rajput.
† A low-caste currier.

The seed money was distributed in the same way, only R25,000. On a rough estimate, a "bigha"* costs a rupee to sow: accordingly from the lists it was seen how many "bigha" each man cultivated last year, and each man in proportion to his acreage and deserts received a sum varying from one to twelve or fifteen rupees.

An additional element of excitement was added to the distribution of seed-money by the presence of the plough cattle. The recipients of money-grants for oxen were told that, on showing their purchases, they would receive money for seed. The result was that during the five days the distribution occupied, over three and a half thousand oxen of every sort and description came into the station. The process of branding the beasts with the appropriate device "C. F." did not lessen the confusion. Nobody was killed: at least if he was, he did not complain about it. More than that would be exaggeration. One enterprising cultivator purchased two buffaloes with his fifteen rupees, and it was satisfactory to see that everyone, with very few exceptions, had bought oxen somehow—as a rule, a very good yoke—though one saw cases where some avaricious creature had saved at least half the sum.

Precautions taken to prevent extortion by officials.

The lowest Native Subordinate, very often, is grasping and badly paid, and owing to the vague fear that he may do a humble subject an injury, his capacities for extortion are great. The reports, therefore, teem with the precautions taken everywhere to see that toll was not taken of the charitable money.

One Collector in the North-Western Provinces writes—

The money was paid by the officers named personally (*i.e.*, four Members of the Indian Civil Service, and two Native Gentlemen in the Provincial Civil Service), special precautions having been taken to prevent personation. The plan of the lamburdars and patwaris was to let the people get the money and then take it from them. I have had complaints of this from all tahsils. I have already dismissed several patwaris, and some lamburdars have been punished criminally. I, on appeal, upheld only the other day two sentences of four months each inflicted by H. I should have given more myself. The good effected by the liberal grant must have been very great indeed. It was just what was wanted. The wildest expectations, however, were excited, and when we called in the people selected whole villages turned up also of their own accord. I was mobbed all over the district. I gave the officers above mentioned the fullest authority to alter the registers at the time of actual distribution as they had then very good opportunity of testing the lists. Entries of payment were made at the time in the registers and these will be the only accounts. I did a good deal of testing myself and consulted personally with every one of the officers above mentioned and gave them my ideas. One and all of them were most zealous and did their very best. H. especially took an enormous amount of

* A bigha varies in area. The bigha usually recognized by Government is equal to $\frac{5}{8}$ of an acre.

pains. Of course the time at our disposal was very short. Going about the villages I never found that the people understood that this was mainly private charity from England. They always said it was "sarkari" and when I told them about it they did not take the slightest interest in that part of the matter. It mattered not to them where the money came from. When the people got their money they made off in a great hurry. This perhaps was scarcely to be wondered at with the harpies about. We undoubtedly distributed a lot of money very widely over the district to the proper persons and the harpies will have to work very hard to get much of it.

Summary justice.

And a Deputy Commissioner tells the same story from another part of the country—

We have been distributing Charitable Relief money for plough-bullocks and seed-grain for the last three days here, and on Thursday captured a patwari who had taken R44 from cultivators who had just received grants, out of a total of R120 odd for the patwari's circle. The patwari had a summary trial, short shrift, and received 25 stripes "*coram populo*" (in the presence of over 1,000 cultivators). The effect was magical and the other patwaris are quaking in their shoes. We are on the track of another patwari who is accused of similar practices.

In Bengal again a Collector states in a private letter:—

One officer sent an urgent message to me that he had with his own hands chastised a "patwari" whom he had caught taking money from a recipient, and saying he hoped I would excuse it. I wrote back to say that his action was much to be commended.

Interest taken by high officials.

As proving the interest taken by the highest officials in the proper distribution of the fund, and also as illustrating the rates of payment made, extracts from the diary of a Commissioner, dated 18th May 1897, will be interesting—

Spent the day with the Collector, witnessing the distribution of payments from the Indian Charitable Relief Fund, Head IV, for the purchase of 'seed' and 'cattle.' In Tehsil Karchana there are 383 mouzahs, 43 with no sites, 340 inhabited villages. In 137 of the latter, money to the extent of R60,000 is being distributed, and, at the present rate, the money will all be in the hands of recipients by 3rd or 4th June. A list of all tenants and petty zemindars had been made for each village giving the area of kharif in his holding and the details of rice-land and fields growing ordinary rain crops. For the former R2 per bigha on the average has been given for seed, and for the latter R8. In this list is also recorded the number of cattle (plough and others) owned by each person at the beginning of the year, the number, if any, the cultivator has lost during the year by death, or by sale induced by distress, and the balance available. In giving grants for cattle R12 was the price ordinarily allowed for one animal. In the case of small holdings, *e.g.*, 4 or 5 bighas, the fact was considered that, if a tenant had one plough-

bullock, he could always arrange by mutual loaning of cattle for ploughing with some other petty cultivator and get his small plot ploughed. In such cases money for seed only was usually given. In the case of larger holdings, where the tenant had lost all, or all but one of his cattle, he was given a grant for a pair of bullocks or one bullock respectively in addition to seed. A list of recipients was prepared after scrutiny of this complete list, other considerations being given due weight. Thus, if neither the tenant nor his family had gone on the relief works, he was thought likely to have some means of his own.

Thakur Salehdi Singh and the Tehsildar of Karchana were working very hard at the scrutiny of the list and distribution of money. Several village lists were gone through in our presence, and an example may be useful. In Pachhokhra, with a total area of 446 bighas kharif cultivation, we had 268 bighas of rice, plus 178 bighas other crops. Rupees 557 were allotted to this village, and, in addition to 65 recipients in the abstract lists of recipients, the detailed scrutiny of the original list by the Deputy Collector and interrogation of the applicants ended in 3 more being selected as fit recipients of the charity.

As regards the provision of seed-grain by dealers, the general opinion seemed to be that the news of all those thousands of rupees being distributed for purchase of grain seeds had already been wired by dealers in Allahabad to dealers in rice and grain marts elsewhere, and that the supply would be arranged in a very short time by private enterprise. As instances of the liberal extent to which free grants are being made, I may cite Mouzah Tilkham, where out of 45 cultivators on rough lists money was given to 24, and in Mouzah Osa to 44 out of 98 names. The careful checking of the lists by personal enquiry and the disbursement of money goes on from morning to night, all payments being made in the presence and by order of the Deputy Collector or Tehsildar. This trying work in the hot weather is being most energetically performed by the two Deputy Collectors and Tehsildars above named and their staffs. Mr. F. proceeds to Meja to inspect this branch of work on Friday, 21st. So far from any of the villagers gathered round showing any hesitation in taking or asking for charitable grants, the foremost in whining pleadings for gifts were zemindars of positive solvency, banias * and sonars,† who of course were not given free grants, but whose names were noted for takavi,‡ if they chose to apply. It is, of course, impossible to prevent a recipient of charity from spending a gift as he chooses; but all the recipients were repeatedly warned to restrict the use of their grants to purchase of seeds and cattle and advised on no account to pay any part of it in satisfaction of rent claims.

I did not see a single token of gratitude or hear a single word

* Shop-keepers.
† Goldsmiths.
‡ A Government advance or security, with interest.

of thanks, but the sight of two native officials dealing out charity in the presence of the English officers may well, by its rarity, have somewhat stupefied them. The Baghelkhandi is a long suffering and very undemonstrative person in public, except when he appears with a petition. I am told that this charitable distribution is the theme of much village talk, and its character fully recognised by the agricultural community.

Careful selection made in Central Provinces.

The following account, though lengthy, from the Deputy Commissioner of Jubbulpore, one of the worst Districts in the Central Provinces (in which out of a rural population amounting to 650,000, more than two-thirds are ryots and most of the rest depend upon agriculture indirectly), affords one more proof of the care taken in dispensing money from the Fund.

It has always been understood that any cultivator who could in any way raise enough money to buy seed or plough-cattle on his own account, should not participate in the charity, and a great deal of the enquiry we had to set on foot was directed to finding out that only really deserving cases were helped. In March last the District Committee resolved to put the preparation of the lists of cultivators in the hands of the Famine Relief Officers appointed by the Government for the supervision of all famine measures. Of these, there were seven, each in charge of a separate portion of the affected tract. One of the Relief Officers was a Member of the Civil Service, one an Officer of the Staff Corps, two were Forest Officers, one a European Member of the Provincial Service and two Native Officials.

These officers received from the Deputy Commissioner detailed instructions as to the preparation of village lists in which should be shown the names of all indigent cultivators, the quantity of seed-grain required by each, and of grain to feed himself and his family during the rains, and in cases where plough-cattle were wanted the number of bullocks absolutely necessary to enable the cultivator to plough his land. The enquiry into all these details was a very prolonged matter. It involved much inspection of the village papers, in which are recorded all particulars as to the holding of each and every cultivator. From these papers could be ascertained the extent of the land in each man's possession and the crops which he usually sowed. On these data an estimate was framed of the quantity and kind of seed-grain the cultivator would need, and the amount necessary to purchase this was noted down. The Relief Officer had of course to use his own discretion as to the extent of the grant to be made. For instance, it would be impolitic to give a cultivator with a considerable extent of land enough money to buy seed for the whole of his holding, thus, perhaps, leaving needy people with smaller holdings out in the cold. In a case like this only so much seed grain would be allowed for as would enable the cultivator to sow a portion of his land, and thus give him a fresh start in life.

The computation of food-grain to be allowed for consumption in the rains, when the cultivator would be engaged in tilling his field or watching his crops and thus be unable to go to the Government Relief Works, was to be taken up at the time. Here again allowances could be made only on the basis of the strictest necessity, and it was invariably understood that all members of the family who would be not actually engaged in cultivation should receive no help from the Fund. Plough-bullocks had also to be estimated for. In some cases cultivators were given the price of one or two bullocks as might be required. In others they were given a small amount to enable them to hire plough-cattle to till their land.

Throughout the whole of April and the first half of May the Relief-Officers were daily engaged in drawing up lists of the requirements of the cultivators. What I would specially bring to notice is that all these enquiries were made on the spot, the help of the chief man of the village being called in, in order to ascertain the actual need of individual cultivators. As might be supposed the latter always made their case out to be as bad as it could be. Standing on one leg, the scantily-clad ryot would tell of the large and hungry family he had to support, and of the wrench it was to him to part with his last plough-bullock in the end of the autumn when his rice crop had withered away. One of the village headmen would probably at this juncture suggest that a bullock could still be seen tied up in the court-yard of the suppliant's house. Then would come the rejoinder that that was only an old beast unfit for the plough. After various parleyings the truth would be arrived at at last, and an agreement come to as to the necessities of the applicant's case. In this connection I may note that fodder has been abundant in this district throughout the year, and the cultivators have had less difficulty in keeping their cattle alive than in keeping the life within their own bodies. True, numbers of cattle were sold merely for the price of their skins, but on the whole there has been no such great reduction in the numbers of the village cattle as a year of famine would lead one to expect.

By the middle of May the Relief Officers had finished the preparation of the lists showing the needs of the cultivators. The result of their enquiries was laid before the District Committee on 22nd May. Briefly, it was proposed to assist 20,465 cultivators, and for the purpose a sum of over ₹3,00,000 was required. This made very little allowance for subsistence grain, as it was finally decided that this should be given later on, as necessity arose during the rains. To meet this demand the District Committee could give only ₹2,45,000, so that the amount allowed to the cultivators, already barely sufficient, had to be cut down by about a sixth. We do not know as yet whether we are to get a further grant later on in the season.*

The distribution of the ₹2,45,000 allotted was taken up immediately after the meeting of the District Committee and by the present time (June 10th) the whole sum has been given out.

* The District Committee have since received an additional grant.

We thought it best to pay the cultivators money down, rather than enter into any arrangement for buying and distributing grain or for purchasing bullocks and handing them over to the cultivators. In the first place the cultivator knows exactly what he wants, and how to get it. He can also drive a much better bargain than could any outside agency. Besides, in carting and storing grain a good deal of expense would have been incurred which will be saved by letting the cultivator go to his own market and carry his purchases home himself. It may be suggested that it is hardly safe to trust to people who are in a very woe-begone condition spending the money on the objects for which it is given. This is a matter to which we gave a good deal of thought, and the universal opinion of people best able to judge was that the cultivator could be trusted. The getting of seed to sow and of bullocks to plough his land is of such absolute necessity to the cultivator, that he can be safely depended upon to think of them before anything else. Moreover, the direct supervision of the Relief Officers will help to keep him from making an improper use of the money.

It is yet too early to gather fully how the money has been spent, but I give the following extracts from reports which have just reached me.

Mr. M., Relief Officer S. Tehsil, writes :—

"I was astonished to find on my way here last night numbers of people camped on the roadside, and on enquiry I found that they were charitable relief recipients from Murwara Tehsil come down here for grain. They obtained it chiefly from Semaria. Most of them had thus come 30 miles by road to get their supply of seed grain."

Mr. L., Forest Officer in the B. Circle, writes :—

"*June 2nd.*—I was very glad to find that the persons who have received money for bullocks are buying them. To-day I passed several that had just been bought.

June 4th.—Visited Gorha village. Bullocks had been obtained by all who had received money for the purpose."

Mr. M., Relief Officer in the B. Circle, writes :—

"The tenants who have received help are using the money properly. I had previously distributed ₹5,000 for bullocks to villages in the south of the Circle. I have just been down there again to distribute the remainder of the money, and from my enquiries I believe that in almost every case the recipients have bought bullocks. I met a few people near Kudri who were seeking bullocks there, and I know that the price of bullocks is tightening daily, which proves the sudden demand. I have also enquired where the tenants are getting their seed from, and the answers I have got convince me that seed is being largely bought up."

As the distribution had taken place only a week or so before the above reports were written, I think the assurance these officers give

are sufficient to show that good use is being made of the money. That the people are deeply grateful for what is being done to help them, I hear expressions on every side. To the cultivator, these small gifts of money to help him to set up again in life are of the greatest value. As I have already mentioned, he can be trusted to sow his field, even though it might be a sore temptation to use the grain he thus puts in the ground for purposes of food. It is sincerely to be hoped that the rains for which we are now awaiting may be good and sufficient. If this be so, the charity which has saved so many of the patient toiling cultivators from ultimate ruin will be ten times blessed.

Distribution in the Punjab.

The Deputy Commissioner of Hissar, who estimates that in the greater part of his district only 15 per cent. of the plough cattle were left when the monsoon approached, and who distributed ₹5,00,000 in Government loans to those who could give security, was also entrusted by his District Committee with ₹2,35,000 for charitable grants. The work was done by his four Assistant and Extra-Assistant Commissioners personally on the same system as in the Central Provinces, but each village was taken *seriatim*, the applications received beforehand were considered and the money paid by the officer on the spot without further reference. The work was peculiarly severe, owing to the intense heat of the weather. Proprietors who had mortgaged their lands to buy food rather than go upon relief-works, or helpless widows or minors and tenants, hereditary and others, such as army pensioners who had lost proprietary right while serving with the colours, persons of all castes whose fathers held certificates of loyal service during the mutiny, village-servants and watchmen, whose duties compelled them to stay at home while others could go to relief-works, or tenants of landlords too poor themselves to render assistance, comprised the bulk of the persons relieved. The Deputy Commissioner states that the value of the gifts has been very great. He observes :—

> They (the gifts) have given the peasant-proprietor involved in debt his only real chance of recovering the land he and his forefathers have held for so many years. They have practically secured to the occupancy tenant continuity of possession of his ancestral holding just as it was threatened by a grasping and alien landlord. They have insured the widow and orphan their daily food and clothing. They have saved the humbler members of the village community from sinking into a state of absolute dependence on the good will and favour of their powerful neighbours, and they have shown the old loyal servants of the State whose fighting days are over that their services are still borne in good memory.

Distribution in Bengal.

The Collector of Saran, one of the most overpopulated and distressed districts in Bengal, narrates the distribution of money after an overwhelming fall of rain and accompanying flood which had destroyed the germinating grain in June:—

I concentrated my relief-staff on getting money into the hands of the sufferers to enable them to buy seed with, and before the month had passed over, 1,00,000 rupees had been distributed. I employed only those in whom I could trust, and they so far as possible distributed in the villages themselves or at any rate at some convenient centre to which the villagers could easily come. Besides the best of ordinary staff of circle officers, I employed eight extra men in preparing lists of deserving cases, and the statements of the recipients were checked from the village rent-rolls. By this means we relieved the mass of petty cultivators possessing, many of them, less than an acre. The more substantial were helped with Government loans.

The Collector adds that the actual distribution of the money was made personally by officers of the Civil Service, Military Officers and Planters, sometimes at their camps and at others in the villages themselves. Specially vigorous action has been taken to punish cases of extortion by petty officials. The accounts have not yet been fully audited, but out of a sum of ₹1,25,000 given away the returns show that 24,452 persons received ₹1,01,169-14-3 or about ₹4-4-0 each.

Report on good already effected by gifts, to cultivators.

The Central Committee is again indebted to Mr. Hose, the Provincial Honorary Secretary of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Committee, for a test taken of the results of distribution under Object IV. There could not be better proof of the value of the gifts:—

I did not have time to make a very extended tour round the fields. But what I did see was very satisfactory. In the villages of Kanti, Belwa, Sondwa and Kundharia I saw all the men who had received money grants for the purchase of cattle. They had received either ₹12 or ₹15 each, and every one of them had bought a bullock, paying ₹12, ₹12-4, ₹13-12, ₹15, ₹15-4, and so on. All of the bullocks so bought had been branded with the letter "C," so there was no mistaking them. I saw also another man ploughing in another village, of which I have not the name, and one of his yoke also was a "khairati," *i.e.*, charity bullock. These villages stretch over a line of about seven miles of country. In Belwa and Kundharia, also in Bhabokhan and Goonchee, villages whose lands run on the borders of our route between the other villages, and in the village I have already mentioned, whose name I do not know, I saw a very considerable area of land sown with seed bought with our gifts. I saw nearly every one of the men who cultivated the fields and

questioned them; nearly every one had sown just about as much land as he could sow with the money given him and very little, if any, more. The crops were thriving, rice (the early or *bhadoi* rice not *jarhan*), maize, sanwar, arhar, seemed to be the principal varieties. The time for *bajri* sowing is not yet come.

The cattle were all or nearly all bought from the south, the land towards the jungles. The seed was almost without exception brought from marts on or close to the railway.

In the crops that were sown about Jubilee time it is now time to weed, and in many places weeding is in progress. But some, never satisfied, were complaining that the "Sarkar" had given seed-money and cattle-money, but had not given money to pay labourers for weeding. This is a natural want, but they ought all to be able now to have the necessary funds from their *mahajans* (money-lenders). The prospects are now favourable and the crops promise well. A *mahajan* will give advances without demur under such circumstances.

It was quite remarkable to me that in every case I came across the gift had been spent precisely in the way intended. The district officers have orders not to enquire into the disposal of the gifts, and it would seem that there is no need for them to do so; they are being well used.

I was much struck with the good result of that 'Object IV' money.

No detailed reports have as yet been received of the distribution of money-grants under Object IV in Madras and Bombay, but throughout the rest of India (including Burma, from which province very interesting reports have come), there is a consensus of testimony as to the care taken to distribute the money, and the good use made of it. So far only few cases of want of attention to the selection of proper subjects for relief have come to notice.

Attempts by undeserving persons to obtain relief.

That attempts are made by undeserving persons to partake of the charity will have been noticed already, and a native gentleman in the Indian Civil Service, after expressing what seems to him the great merit of the fund, *viz.*, that it helps deserving people whom the Government leaves alone, quotes another striking case of the kind. He writes:—

Before funds from the charitable relief society were available, cultivators and the better class of villagers, used often to tell me referring to the dole given under Article 54, Famine Code, that the "Sarkar"* was helping the Chamars,† Kols‡ and other coolies, but that the better classes were left without help. With the liberal help now given there is a feeling of deep gratitude among the masses. Only the other day a big "merchant" of this neighbourhood

* Government.
† Leather dressers, a very low caste.
‡ An aboriginal tribe.

told me that had the Sarkar not done what it did in helping all classes all round, there would have been another "bharat." This was a reference to the great battle of the Mahabarata in which, according to popular Hindu belief, millions were engaged and but few survived.

In distributing such large sums, as was to be expected, one met with instances of fairly well-to-do people attempting to pass themselves off as paupers deserving of relief. I remember one instance in which an old man came up to my hut along with the tenants of a village He was the most clamorous of the whole lot, and the professional beggar's whine that he from time to time emitted was simply perfect. He was dressed for the part, in other words, wore almost nothing, and constantly repeated that he had no plough-cattle and no seed, nor the means to buy any. I thought his a case deserving of help and began asking him a few questions. I noticed, however, that the villagers assembled there seemed immensely amused at my proceedings, and many of the younger ones could hardly control a smile. This made me suspicious, and I made enquiries from the patwari, who told me that the applicant for charity was the mahajan (money-lender) of the village, and that all the principal tenants of the neighbourhood owed him money.

In bright contrast with the above, was a poor Chamar, who, when he came up to the tahsil at Karwi, refused to take the Rio awarded him, on the ground that he did not want to take "charity." He said he had come because he thought the Sarkar was going to give him *takavi* (a repayable advance at an easy rate of interest), and simply refused to take charity.

In some cases the villagers themselves put forward as entitled to relief persons who were not, according to English ideas, a suitable class to select. An officer writes from the Punjab:—

One curious thing, which was very noticeable, was that as the names were submitted after consultation with the village 'lumbardars'* in many cases the villagers thought the proper thing to do was to submit the names of 'fakirs' and bairagis,† and thus get the fund to do their charity for them. There is a custom in this District by which in many villages holy men are given a patch of land for their support, and the revenue is paid by the village. The above were probably people supported in this way. I refused every application of this kind.

The contrast drawn by the merchant in the last narrative but one, between the treatment by the Government of beggars and low castes, compared with those who possess some property has, it appears, been a common theme in the rural

* Head men.
† Religious mendicants.

society of India, during the Famine. For instance, another officer from the Punjab observes—

The recipients of relief at town distributions do not inspire that sad sorrow which touches human hearts. Professional beggars, many of them, and the rest but nameless items, they squeak and gibber and quarrel and wrangle for their doles. An unlovely sight at best, *but* "no one must die." The Deputy Commissioner is as responsible for the death of the scurviest beggar in the bazaar as of the stricken landholder, who appeals to the emotion by the loss of his land and with it of his good name. And yet it could not be otherwise, though the native understands it not. 'The ways of the Sarkar,' said a broken Jat, who had been forced to mortgage his all for his daily bread, 'are wonderful, it cherishes the banya and will not suffer the death of a chamar. But we zamindars are not cared for, because we have still some land to mortgage.' The criticism is unjust of course, but there is truth beneath it.

Impassive demeanour of recipients.

The demeanour of the recipients of the Fund's bounty under Object IV seems to have varied a great deal, but to have been generally impassive, as described above in the Collector's and Commissioner's accounts quoted on pages 47 and 48. An Assistant Collector in the N.-W. Provinces writes in the following terms :—

The attitude of the first recipients was that of hopeful incredulity. They evidently could hardly believe that the money was really given to them and would never be demanded back. When this was thoroughly understood, their demeanour was that of men to whom the vagaries of their rulers were as a closed book, but who had no objection to profiting thereby. The Sirkar* doubtless had some deep and probably nefarious object in thus scattering money broad-cast, but R5 in the hand was worth R20 in the distant future, and the sinister motive whatever it was, might, after all, miss the mark. Hence they accepted the money, the only drawback being that the amount was usually small. Many, like Oliver Twist, asked for more. Expressions of gratitude were very rare; but the faces of most of the recipients as they took their departure, seemed to indicate that, in their own estimation, they had done rather a good stroke of business in coming.

Another Assistant Collector in the same province gives much the same account :—

The demeanour of the recipients might be described as complacent, and, I am afraid, the irritation of those who received nothing was more pronounced than the gratitude of their more needy and fortunate brethren. There were numerous cases, however, in which gratitude was as heartily expressed as it was deeply felt, whilst in other cases the tight clutch with which the open hand closed on the counted rupees, the apprehensive glance at the distributor and the speedy retirement from his office, lest he should change his mind and

* Government.

order some of the rupees to be refunded, showed, in combination with the tattered clothes of the recipients, that a real case of want had been met.

The ryot of the Central Provinces in no way differs. The Honorary Secretary of the Raipur Committee says:—

The Indian cultivator is not a demonstrative person, but still at the same time some of the younger, and therefore, perhaps, more enthusiastic, of the relieving officers have expressed their surprise at the very undemonstrative way in which they have received their free gifts of grain or cash; indeed so improvident and thriftless is the average cultivator, and so heedless of the future, that doubtless he would have been more pleased could he have received a loan to the full extent of his requirements rather than a free gift of the half: about future payment he would not have wasted a thought.

A Native Deputy Collector thus accounts for their attitude:—

The recipients naturally seemed grateful. Two or three first recipients said they would always be praying for Malika Shahzadi* and Angrez Bahadur.† If the rest said nothing, or did not even make a salaam, their silence did not, to my mind, imply ungratefulness. The fact is that the Indians have long forgotten their old ways, and are ignorant of the new modes of expressing their gratitude to sovereignty, and perhaps they consider silence to be the safest thing.

Unworthy motives ascribed for giving liberal charity.

The same gentleman adds that the gifts to tenants were not looked on with unmixed satisfaction by their landlords, who even grudged it and attributed the charity to unworthy motives:—

Some zamindars envy the tenants' lot: they thought they too were entitled to some sort of help. By zamindars I mean persons owing villages, or significant parts of villages, and not the petty landlords holding a few plots who can hardly be distinguished from tenants. I told the zamindars the revenue had been suspended in several cases, and that no possible help would be withheld from them if necessary.

Some admit that the British have acted very nobly in coming forward to help the sufferers in India with such a considerable amount. Others think that the sums subscribed are by no means very considerable in comparison with what goes out to England annually. However, when in course of conversation I told these gentlemen that, having for the last 25 or 30 years enjoyed the assets, in most cases much more than double the amount of land revenue, they might in these one or two seasons of scarcity well afford to pay a part of the Government demand from the surplus, and at the same

* The Queen.
† The noble English.

time help the poor tenants, many of whom they had sucked dry, their only reply was "it is easier to swallow money than to disgorge it."

There is a faint rumour that the Amir, or the Russians, or both covet India, and perhaps some queer people regard, or pretend to regard, this unprecedented noble act of charity as a political move.

This charity has effected a great deal of good. It has saved thousands of tenants in each of the districts to which it was extended from total ruin, and it has proved that the British Government, or the British people, will never suffer Indians to die from starvation. And the Indians ought to feel that in time of need they may rely on the British Government and the British people rather than on the kings and princes and wealthy men of their own race and religion.

While the distribution was going on, a slight shower of rain fell, which was considered a very good omen.

A second native Deputy Collector, while describing the joy of the villagers who received the charity, also admits that ulterior motives were attributed to those who gave it, that is to say, by the towns-people who did not participate:—

The scene was a very interesting one when the poor cultivators were counting the money in front of my table. I noticed in several instances that they were so overjoyed that they forgot to tie the money in their sheets and dhoties, and keeping it in their hands stared at my face. I asked what was the matter with them: they said that if this money had not been shown to them by the "data log" (donors), they would have been in great difficulty in making arrangements for seed, etc.

A few cases were noticed by me in which the people quietly received the gift without any expression of gratitude, and they were mostly residents of the villages close to the town. They did not appear to me to value the relief so much as those residing in the villages far from it. Two Thakurs of Mauza Pawansa refused to receive the relief on the grounds that they were Rajputs, and would not accept charity, and their names had been entered in the list without their knowledge. The Thakurs were very poor, but on account of family pride they refused the charity. As far as I have been able to study the feelings of the people, the majority of them appeared to be exceedingly grateful to the donors. Lately some two of the towns-people asked me if the funds out of which the relief has been given includes the subscription raised by the Russians to relieve the sufferings of the people of this country. I told them that it was purely the bounty of the people of England, and nothing was received from Russia* or any other country.

There had been, of course, rumours prevailing in the district before the distribution of the relief that the Amir was coming on a

* This is an error. The Central Committee have received generous contributions amounting to R98,153-15-3, from Russia.

pilgrimage to Ajmere with some 100,000 men, but these rumours subsided in a few days. I think the distribution of the relief has led some towns-people to believe that the relief has been given to gain the favourable opinion of the people, but such feelings are absent from the minds of the rural population living at a distance from the town.

From this and other reports it is clear that in this district designing persons had endeavoured to poison the minds of the simple cultivators, and discredit the charity.

Some officers, it will be noticed, discovered a little sense of thankfulness. An English officer writes also from the same district as the last:—

> I was certainly struck with the change of countenance in the majority of cases. I had a few thick-headed men before me who stared at me as I delivered myself, and who simply shook their heads. But the bulk of the cultivators showed their agreeable surprise when they discovered they were not required to refund the money at some future date, and they even appeared to realize a sense of gratitude towards the donors; that they went home happier, there was not even a shadow of doubt.

And numerous reports from native officials, couched, no doubt, in slightly hyperbolic language, testify to the real gratitude of the ryots. After all, the cultivator in every part of the world is usually a silent, undemonstrative person, little given to transports of either joy or sorrow.

Grants in kind of cattle seed, and fodder.

The Committee have not as yet received any accounts of the distribution of relief in kind, but the following is a description by the Vice-Chairman, taken from his "Notes on Tour," of the way in which cattle are given away in Bijapur:—

> The first to be called up were two sturdy fellows who owned 24 and 16 acres respectively of good land and who had lost all their bullocks. They signed an agreement each to allow the other to use the bullocks in turn, and then were told to go and choose a pair between them. Naturally they chose the best, a very good pair indeed, and, impassive as the native always is, they found it impossible to disguise their intense pleasure, stroking and patting the bullocks continually as if they loved them. In addition to the bullocks each man was given a sum which would enable him to feed his animal for two months at the rate of two annas a day, besides a few bundles of grass. Each also received an advance of ₹5 for buying seed, which would enable them to sow 10 acres a piece, this being the outside limit Mr. Barrow can afford. Similar arrangements were made with 13 others, each being given one bullock to share

with another. One man, who had 24 acres, had lost the whole of his cattle. Another had lost two pairs of bullocks, all that he had. A poor widow, who cultivates 28 acres, had lost her only pair as well as a buffalo. The bullocks distributed had been purchased outside the district through the kind assistance of the Government Officers and also by voluntary helpers. They were expensive ones, as the cost of transit to the centre of the district and their subsequent feed had raised the average price of a pair to ₹55. Up to date 654 had been purchased and distributed over the distressed talukas at an average of ₹31. All of them will be given away either by the Collector himself personally, or by one of his Assistants or Deputies. Each bullock is branded "R. F." (*i.e.*, Relief Fund) on the quarter before it is parted with, and the recipient agrees not to sell it or give up his land for six months. Mr. Barrow, who was supervising the operations from the terrace of the palace, then addressed the crowd, for a great many spectators and would-be recipients had assembled, explaining clearly that the bullocks were a free gift, bought with money which charitable persons in England and foreign countries had, out of pity for the sufferers from famine, sent to India in aid of the distress. They were not gifts from the Government. The recipients, all stolid-looking bucolics, were asked if they understood, and replied that they did so, and that the bullocks were "dharm," *i.e.*, a gift made from religious motives, as distinguished from beasts for the purchase of which the Government advances money and recovers it afterwards. Mr. Barrow said that the distribution would go on daily for three days, and that would dispose of three or four circles, *i.e.*, about 40 villages.

The reason why cattle are distributed in the Deccan and also in parts of the Central Provinces instead of giving the ryots the money to buy them, is partly because, owing to the great mortality, animals had to be bought and imported from a distance and fodder to be supplied, partly to ensure the money being properly spent, and partly because by lending the bullocks out, as has been done in some instances, to the village community, they cannot be seized for debt.

Fodder-supply.

In the black-soil tracts of the Deccan grass is not allowed in the fields, and the country presents the aspect of a vast black plain. Hence cattle must be fed almost entirely upon straw, and when that fails they die. Therefore, independently of the strenuous and successful exertions made by one Government, that of Bombay, to lay down hay from the forests at the railway stations, or of the Provincial Committee of Madras, on a smaller scale, to import rice-straw into the distressed districts, District Committees both in Madras and Bombay have themselves bought up fodder and distributed it *gratis* or at a low price. Another extract from the Vice-

Chairman's "Notes" illustrates what is being done in making grants of fodder and cattle in the Sholapur district:—

Up to the end of May the Committee had spent ₹26,947 on the purchase of fodder partly on grass received from the Forest Department and partly on "*karbi*" or *juari* straw, which merchants imported from Nizam's territory. The Sub-Divisional Officer arranges the allotments on lists made by village-officers and checked by the Circle Inspectors and Mamlatdars, and the Assistant Collector examines the circumstances of every applicant before making a grant. Mr. Weir, an Assistant Collector, said that when he was travelling he always had lists of recipients with him and made enquiries whether the fodder had been used for the men's own cattle or not. Large numbers of cattle have been preserved owing to these gifts of fodder. Up to date 1,163 bullocks have been purchased at a cost of ₹20,323, *i.e.*, for 17½ rupees each, much cheaper than in Bijapur; but up to the 31st May only 200 had been distributed. A good many have been purchased locally or even obtained gratis from persons unable to keep them any longer, and are being fed up for distribution later. The sum expended on seed is ₹6,929. Now that rain has fallen a good many animals will be brought from other districts for sale, and many more purchases will be made. Here opinion is entirely in favour of making grants under Object No. IV. in kind and not in cash. The Assistant Collector, Mr. Weir, said that whenever he goes into a village the people surround him, entreating him to give them grass and cattle. He always examines the village-books to see what land they possess, enquires what property and cattle they have left, and selects those who are most distressed and have lost all their credit with the local banya. He never makes gifts of cattle to persons who have any of their own remaining, but gives fodder sometimes to preserve those which are still left. He distributes orders on the grass depôts at the railway stations for grants of fodder, which will be adjusted when the grass accounts are made up by the Forest Department at the expense of the Charitable Fund. Occasionally he gives such orders on behalf of Government after the manner of *takavi*, when he considers that the cost can be ultimately recovered from the ryot. All gifts of fodder from the Charitable Fund are made out-and-out. Fodder is now so expensive that the Executive Engineer told me he had to pay ₹1 a day for *karbi** to feed one horse, the cost of grass in ordinary years being ₹8 a month.

In the Central Provinces rice and other seed has been imported largely from Sambalpur, where the crops did not fail, both for distribution to the poor in the highlands where no dealers exist, and also in the plains. The same precautions are taken as in the case of gifts in cash to ensure that only those are relieved who are in real need.

* Straw of *juari*, the great millet.

In the great Deccan Famine of 1876-77 considerable sums were given for the repair and rebuilding of houses. But in 1897, the ryots have scarcely anywhere needed this assistance, mainly because they have become better-to-do in the last twenty years and live in more substantial houses. In isolated cases of fire or flood, however, grants have been made, and it is believed also that in the very distressed parts of Bundelkhand they have been aided to buy tiles for the annual repair of their roofs. But detailed accounts of this kind of relief have not yet reached the Central Committee. Rebuilding and repair of houses.

The Committee will reserve an account of outlay incurred in administering the Fund till their next report. It is sufficient to state, meanwhile, that the expenditure has been of a trifling character, owing to the vast amount of voluntary assistance that has been received on every side. Office and miscellaneous expenditure.

CONCLUSION.

This report must now conclude. In the words of an officer, the account of whose work is before the Central Committee, "How much good the money has done and will do, no one can ever know." The Central Executive Committee have studiously refrained from reciting any of the horrors of the famine, though the reports which have been received afford much sad evidence of their existence. As the Secretary of State himself observed in his speech at the Mansion House, "Whenever famine visits India, it exacts a heavy death-toll." At a time like this, when so many millions are involved in want and privation, it is impossible to prevent much acute suffering, even though the Government and its officers and those who are distributing the Charitable Fund, make every effort that is, humanly speaking, practicable, to ward off or to mitigate it. The Central Committee know that the exertions of every one engaged in either Government or charitable relief have been unremitting, and the success achieved surpasses all previous experience of famine. While, therefore, they are compelled to agree with a gentleman who wrote in a note for the Committee on the 26th May that "No picture can overdraw the horrors of the famine-stricken, nor can anyone realise the accumulations of protracted misery that is being suffered in India to-day," they feel that everything has been done that could be done, and that sensational accounts should therefore be eschewed. Conclusion.

Central Committee's grateful acknowledgments of assistance.

In Appendix E (page 148) will be found an abstract of the financial position of the Central, Provincial and District Committees combined up to 31st July 1897. Another report will, it is hoped, be submitted in January 1898 after complete accounts and returns are received from Provincial Committees, by which time, as the Committee trust, the famine will be generally ended. The Chairman and Members of the Committee desire, however, to take this opportunity of returning their grateful thanks to all who have assisted them, and especially to those who, in the midst of severe labours and anxieties, have written accounts of the manner in which the fund is being distributed for their information and that of the subscribers. They beg also to offer their respectful acknowledgments to His Excellency the Viceroy and to the Government of India for the warm and sympathetic support ever rendered to them and for the pecuniary assistance given to them, and they also thank the Governments of all the distressed provinces for the information they have freely rendered to the Central Committee, and the counsel and aid which they have accorded to the Provincial and District Committees. Finally, to the Lord Mayor of London, the Governor General of Canada, as well as to every one who has assisted in raising funds in the United Kingdom and all over the world, and also to each one of those who have so munificently subscribed, they beg, in the name of the distressed peoples of India, to offer their most grateful and hearty thanks.

FRANCIS W. MACLEAN,
Chairman.

September 6th, 1897.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX A.

(*Vide* pp. 3 and 6.)

Despatch from Government of India to Secretary of State for India, No. 64, dated Calcutta, the 23rd December 1896.

MY LORD,

WE understand that the Lord Mayor of London, the Blackburn Chamber of Commerce, and others have been in communication with your Lordship on the subject of opening subscription lists in England in connexion with the distress which is now threatening India. We feel assured that the suffering which, in spite of all that the Government may do to relieve it, must necessarily be in store during the next few months for many millions of Her Majesty's subjects, will deeply move the sympathies of the British public; and we are convinced that it needs but an indication on your Lordship's part that money will be gratefully received and can be usefully applied, to ensure a generous response from that liberality of which India has already had experience, and of which she still preserves a grateful recollection. We therefore deem it right to place your Lordship in possession of our views on the subject without further delay.

2. On a former occasion, when Southern India was suffering from famine in 1877, a sum of something like 900,000*l.* sterling was collected in England to be applied in India to the alleviation of distress. The application of this money led to a correspondence between Lord Lytton's Government and the Secretary of State of that time, which terminated with Lord Cranbrook's Despatch No. 46, dated 16th May 1878, and which the Famine Commissioners had before them when they discussed the subject in paragraphs 187 and 188 of their report. In the course of that correspondence it was laid down "that the Government is responsible, as far as may be practicable, "for the saving of life by all the available means in its power," and that "it is not proper or expedient that the Government should ask "for private subscriptions to supplement its own expenditure on "famine, especially as it is clear that such subscriptions can make "no appreciable difference" in the amount of an expenditure which must be reckoned by millions. To these principles we steadfastly adhere. To invite subscriptions which are to be spent in the performance of a task for which we have undertaken the responsibility, would be to invite them for the relief of the Indian exchequer—an end towards which we could neither ask nor receive contributions with propriety. For this reason we think that anything that might bear the appearance of an appeal for assistance on the part of the Government of India to the people of England, should be scrupulously avoided as being liable to serious misconception.

3. To ask, however, is one thing, and to receive with gratitude and apply to the best possible advantage money which may be spontaneously offered is another. As Lord Lytton wrote in 1877:

"while it is not desirable, in the circumstances above mentioned, "for the Government itself to take any part in the collection or dis- "tribution of subscriptions, every encouragement should be given "to the spontaneous flow of private charity." There is, as we shall presently show, ample scope for the operation of private charity outside the definite task of saving people from starvation which the Government has taken upon its own shoulders. And should the English people at any time think fit to send of their benevolence aid to those who are in distress, not only will it be most welcome, and most useful in the mitigation of very real suffering, but the fact will be of the greatest political value, as tending to draw together in the bond of sympathy the peoples of the two countries. We would prefer, however, that anything that may be in contemplation in the shape of public organisation for the collection and receipt of subscriptions should be deferred till the situation has more definitely declared itself; and we have already suggested this to your Lordship in our telegram of the 17th December.

If the winter rains wholly fail us, India will be involved in a calamity which will, we believe, equal if not transcend in magnitude any similar calamity that has befallen her during the present century. If, on the other hand, they are timely and plentiful, the area in which serious famine may be anticipated, though still large in itself, will be by comparison small; while a large part of the tracts which are still in danger will probably escape anything worse than that distress, in itself sufficiently serious and widespread, which high prices must occasion among the poorer classes of labourers and artisans, and others with incomes fixed in cash. At the present moment, save in parts of the North-Western and Central Provinces, we have present with us nothing more serious than distress, which is, however, slowly deepening into famine; while whatever relief may come to us in the shape of rain must come within the next few weeks. Thus, we shall shortly know with some certainty whether the calamity is to be of the gravest magnitude, or of limited, if still very serious gravity. In either case contributions will be welcome. But if anything in the shape of an invitation is to be addressed to public charity, it would, we think, be well to postpone it until the case for assistance can be stated more definitely, and (should the worst befall us) more powerfully than is at present possible.

4. In the correspondence to which we have already alluded, it was laid down that before an appeal was made to the charity of an English public "the Governor-General in Council should in the "first instance define the objects to which (as distinct from the obli- "gation devolving on the Government) such charity will be devoted." We enclose a concise statement of those objects as we understand them, which may be of use should any public action be taken in the matter. As we have said, we accept as our own the responsibility of saving life. But life once secured our responsibility to the afflicted ceases and our responsibility to the tax-paying public begins In order to ensure that the public revenues are not devoted to any less emergent purpose than the saving of life, we exact from those who

apply for relief (with due regard for sex, age, infirmity, and the customs of the country) tests of the reality of their need of such a nature that only those who are genuinely impelled by want will submit to them. And we rigorously limit the assistance given to what is really necessary for the preservation of life. It is evident that there is the widest possible margin of suffering and distress outside these limitations, in the relief of which private charity will find an ample field.

5. It was pointed out in the correspondence of 1877-78, that the Government being reponsible for the saving of life by all available means in its power, and an official agency having been organised for this purpose, "it is not desirable that another agency or the "same agency under another name should be employed on the same "lines in the distribution of private charity;" and that "the Govern-"ment and the Government alone should in the last resort have "the direction of whatever volunteer agency may be organised, and "should exercise some control over the expenditure of such sums as "the liberality of the nation may contribute." The Secretary of State therefore ruled that "to inspire confidence in the public, as "well as to secure the efficient administration of the funds, local "committees should conduct their operations under the control of "Government, and with the co-operation of its officers." These principles are, we think, indisputable. The necessary control should, however, be exercised without giving it undue prominence; and we enclose a sketch of the organisation which we propose to recommend for the administration of any funds which we may receive from England. We enclose also, for your Lordship's information, copies of a letter which we have caused to be addressed to Local Governments on the subject of the organisation and control of private charity in India.

6. Meanwhile we will keep your Lordship duly informed of the progress of events. Should private purses open spontaneously, India will gratefully receive the aid thus proffered. But we should prefer that anything like a public call for subscriptions should, if possible, be deferred until we are able to furnish your Lordship with a somewhat more definite estimate of the gravity of the situation. And we are strongly of opinion that, should such a call be decided upon, it should be made perfectly clear that the appeal is for money to be spent in the alleviation of that distress which cannot properly be relieved at the cost of the State, and is in no sense an appeal by the Government of India for assistance in its struggle with starvation.

We have, etc.,

ELGIN.
G. S. WHITE.
J. WESTLAND.
J. WOODBURN.
M. D. CHALMERS.
E. H. H. COLLEN.
A. C. TREVOR.

ENCLOSURE NO. 1.

Statement of the Objects to which Private Subscriptions may legitimately be devoted.

Government fully accepts general responsibility for saving the lives of the people in tracts in which famine prevails; and it is essential that private charity, while working side by side with, should not interfere with or overlap the operations which are organised for this purpose. There is, however, ample scope for its exercise in supplementing these operations, in mitigating suffering, and in relieving distress which falls just short of absolute destitution. Especially, private contributions might usefully be expended on the following objects:—

Firstly: *in supplementing the subsistence ration which alone is provided from public funds, by the addition of small comforts, whether of food or of clothing, for the aged or infirm, for the patients in hospitals, for children, and the like.*

As guardian of the public purse, and in view of the magnitude of the calamity, Government is obliged to limit its assistance to what is absolutely necessary for the preservation of life.

Secondly: *in providing for the maintenance of orphans.*

Every famine leaves behind it a number of waifs who have lost or become separated from those who should be responsible for them, and for whose maintenance it is necessary to provide till they are of an age to support themselves.

Thirdly: *in relieving the numerous poor but respectable persons who will endure almost any privation rather than apply for Government relief, accompanied as it must be by official inquiry into, and by some kind of test of the reality of the destitution which is to be relieved.*

The feeling of the sacredness of the "purdah" or domestic privacy is intensely strong in India; and it is most difficult for any official organisation to reach, or even to ascertain with certainty, the existence of distress of this nature.

Fourthly: *in restoring to their original position, when acute distress is subsiding, those who have lost their all in the struggle, and in giving them a fresh start in life.*

The peasant cultivator may often thus be saved from losing his holding through sheer inability to cultivate it, and from sinking to the position of a day labourer.

ENCLOSURE NO. 2.

Sketch of the organisation which is suggested for the collection and administration of private subscriptions:—

(1) A Central Committee, to be termed the Indian Committee for the provision and administration of charitable relief,

to be established in India. The General Committee to be unlimited in numbers, and nominations of representatives from each province likely to be affected by famine to be invited.

The General Committee to nominate an Executive Committee consisting of not more than members to undertake the actual administration of the business of the Committee.

The head-quarters of the Committee to be at Calcutta. The functions of the Central Committee will be—

(*a*) To receive moneys transmitted from England or other countries and also moneys that may be subscribed in India for the general purposes of the Committee. The fund so created to be termed the "Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1897."

(*b*) To apportion these moneys between the different provinces.

(*c*) To arrange, in concert with the Government, the system upon which charitable relief is to be applied.

(2) A Committee to be formed in each province which will receive the moneys apportioned to that province by the Central Committee, and also any moneys subscribed specially to meet the needs of the province, will distribute these moneys to Local Committees, and will generally direct the action of the Local Committees. The Provincial Committee will act in concert with the Local Government, and will be responsible for seeing that the money allotted by the Central Committee is spent on the declared objects of the Fund and with the approval oft he Local Government.

(3) Local Committees to be formed as the Provincial Committees may determine. The detailed administration of the Relief Funds will be in the hands of these Local Committees acting in concert with the local authorities.

(4) The collection of money in England to be in the hands of a Committee or other agency which will be set on foot in such manner as the Secretary of State may deem advisable.

ENCLOSURE NO. 3.

Circular No. 1 F. / 66-2, dated Calcutta, the 22nd December 1896.

From Denzil Ibbetson, Esq., C.S., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India.

SIR,

WITH endorsement No. 1323—1332, dated 28th June 1878, in the Public Works Department (Famine) of the Government of India, was forwarded certain correspondence with the Secretary of State on the subject of the collection and administration of the contributions of private charity for the relief of distress in time of

famine. I am now to forward, in continuation of that correspondence, and for the information of
a copy of a despatch which is being addressed to the Secretary of State on the same subject.

2. The Governor General in Council is of the opinion that the same general principles should, so far as they are applicable, be applied in the case of the charity of the Indian public as have been laid down in the case of contributions from England. Individual and purely local benevolence will of course follow its own course. The evils which may arise from its faulty administration, if it should assume any considerable magnitude, are discussed in paragraph 187 of Part I of the Famine Commission's Report. But there will seldom be any difficulty in dealing locally with such cases.

3. When, however, any general public appeal is made for money to be expended throughout the province or throughout India, the same considerations apply in the main as in the case of English charity. Government officials may very properly associate themselves with such an appeal; but it must be made clear that they do so merely as sympathising with, and sharing in the feelings of benevolence that have suggested the appeal, and that they are in no sense its author; that it is spontaneous, and not officially prompted or promoted. As regards the question whether the time for such an appeal has arrived in any province, the point must be determined in each case in view of local conditions. Should it at any time be decided to make such an appeal, the objects to which private charity is to be devoted should be clearly defined so as not to trench upon the field of Government operations; and it should be made clear that Government reserves to itself such power of control as may be necessary to ensure the fulfilment of this condition.

I have, etc.,

DENZIL IBBETSON,

Secretary to the Government of India.

Despatch from Secretary of State to Governor-General of India in Council, No. 10 (Revenue), dated 15th January 1897.

MY LORD,

ON learning from your Excellency that the probable extent of the famine could now be defined, and that public subscriptions were being invited in India, I informed the Lord Mayor of London that your Government gratefully accept his offer to open a Mansion House Fund for subscriptions in aid of the relief of sufferers from famine in India; and on the receipt of your letter, No. 64 (Famine), dated the 23rd December 1896, I have communicated to His Lordship your views regarding the objects to which private charity can best be devoted, and regarding the way in which charitable funds can best be administered. Since the month of October, your weekly telegrams have kept me informed regarding the condition of affairs, while your present Despatch, and your detailed telegram of the 10th

January 1897, give the latest information concerning the extent of the calamity and the measures that have been taken for the relief and mitigation of suffering.

2. The famine has been caused by the absence of the usual rainfall during part of the autumn of 1896. Over a great part of India no rain fell from the middle of August to the middle of November, during which period more than one-third of the year's rainfall is usually expected. The failure of the rains stunted or destroyed the growing autumn food crops, such as millets, rice and pulse, the yield of which on unirrigated lands is estimated to range from nothing to nearly half an average crop. The irrigated autumn crop lands, about 14 per cent. of the whole, are expected to yield about three-quarters of an ordinary harvest. The drought also prevented or impeded ploughing and sowing for the spring crops such as wheat, barley, gram and pulse. The effect of the failure upon the people was aggravated, especially in the North-West Provinces and the Central Provinces, by the circumstance that food-stocks had been reduced and the resisting power of the people had been impaired by previous short harvests.

3. In the month of October all the Local Governments considered the situation and made preparations for meeting the calamity in the several ways prescribed by the Famine Codes. The great extension of railways and the increase in the irrigated area made the country and the people better able to resist famine, while the existence of the Famine Codes and the preparations made under those Codes placed your Government and your officers in a better position for administering timely relief than they had been on any previous occasion. During October the commoner food-grains became dearer over a great part of India than had ever been known before at that time of the year and over so great an area. In 74 districts the cheaper kinds of grain were dearer than ten seers per rupee. The detailed reports which have reached me from the several provinces show that in the North-West Provinces, Oudh, and Bengal timely and complete preparations had been made; while in the Punjab, where pressure was less severe, in Bombay, where the need arose later, and in Madras, where subsequent rainfall removed cause for anxiety, adequate precautions appear to have been taken.

4. At the beginning of November it was apparent that, if the cold weather rainfall should be wanting, there must be serious famine over a large area of India, inhabited perhaps by 80 to 90 millions of people, and that it would be most severely felt in the North-West Provinces, in four districts of which the famine organisation had been fully tried, and had achieved a very satisfactory success during the previous season of 1895-96. But the situation was much relieved by the rainfall of November, which secured a full winter harvest over the greater part of Madras and Mysore; and which spread in an unusual way to the Deccan, the Central Provinces, and Northern India. In December and January also, cold weather showers have fallen over Central and Northern India, over Bengal and over parts

of Bombay. The sowings for the spring crops have everywhere been extended, though the breadth of these crops is reported to be still considerably short of the normal area. The spring crops, however, where they have been sown and have germinated, are said to be practically safe; and it is certain that by April next a large addition will have been made to the food-supply of the people over the greater part of the affected area. In some tracts, however, such as North Behar, and some of the districts in the Central Provinces and Oudh, where the people depend mainly upon the autumn harvest for their food, the relief given by the spring crops will be less considerable.

5. According to your latest information on the 10th January, the position was that famine was felt or expected over districts inhabited by about 37 millions of people, while more or less distress was feared over other tracts containing 44 millions. In British India the expected famine areas and the distressed areas appear to be distributed somewhat thus :—

	Famine.		Distress.	
	Square Miles.	Population.	Square Miles.	Population.
*Punjab	16,800	4,139,000	30,100	6,559,000
North-West Provinces	26,200	11,273,000	50,600	26,013,000
Bengal	6,700	5,281,000	9,900	8,265,000
Burma	2,600	212,000	8,600	555,000
Madras	8,500	1,206,000	—	—
Bombay	43,000	7,009,000	9,300	2,064,000
Central Provinces	60,200	7,824,000	13,200	1,019,000
Total	164,000	36,944,000	121,700	44 475,000

In the famine areas full relief organisation under the Famine Codes either has been or is being established as need arises; and in the distressed areas relief works have been or are being opened in order to test the extent of the pressure. If hereafter in parts of the distressed area famine should appear, the relief organisation will be at once extended.

6. The number of people in receipt of relief during the first week of January was 1,200,000, of whom about 248,000 were receiving gratuitous relief. It is expected that these numbers will increase until April; during March and April pressure will, it is hoped, abate in tracts where the spring harvests on large areas prove good; but in some parts the numbers on relief may go on increasing until the end of May. And in no case will anxiety be over until favourable rains have fallen in July and August next.

7. Besides organising relief works and the distribution of gratuitous relief you have sanctioned suspensions of revenue where pres-

sure is greatest ; you have made available for irrigation as much water as possible ; you have sanctioned large advances or loans to land-holders who are ready to give work on their estates, and to raiyats who are ready to dig wells ; you have opened the Government forests to grazing in places where fodder is scanty, and you have reduced the railway rates for carriage of food.

8. You believe that the stocks of food are practically sufficient for the needs of the people, Burma and perhaps South India having a large surplus of food. You are relying on private trade to carry food to places where it is wanted, and you have made public your decision to abstain from any Government interference with the operations of the grain trade. But you have given Local Governments authority to arrange through local dealers for sending food to any relief work or relief centre, where the supply of food is apparently running short. I do not gather that supplies of food are yet coming into the distressed districts from Burma, Madras, or Siam ; and I question if Indian prices are, as yet, high enough to attract wheat or even maize from the west. I observe that the Famine Codes provide that the relief wage, or the gratuitous dole, shall be fixed at the value of a certain ration of food on the spot ; so that, if food becomes still dearer, the relief wage will be proportionately increased. I agree in your view, which was that expressed by the Famine Commission, that the trade, as a whole, can supply the food demand better and more effectively than Government could ; and, if reliance is placed on the trade, its operations, so long as they are effective, must not be subjected to competition by Government agency. No doubt careful watch will be kept by your Government not only on the food supply generally, but its local distribution. The area in India possessing a surplus of food is unhappily not so extensive this year as it was in 1876-77.

9. I approve the orders you have given regarding the undertaking of canals and railways as relief works. I hope that local capitalists or local bodies will be found ready in many places to construct light railways under the liberal terms which you have offered in order to meet the present necessity. I understand that, if anywhere sufficient large relief works are not available in particular tracts, recourse will be had to village works, a system which appears to have been prosecuted very successfully in the Bundelcund relief operations of 1895-96. Whether for these petty works, or for other relief duties, a largely increased staff will certainly be required ; and I gather that the Local Governments are taking early steps to organise a sufficient temporary staff of relief officers. In the Bundelcund report, I observed with satisfaction the excellent service done by Indians, official and non-official, as well as by European relief officers, and I greatly regret that some of these excellent officers should have died or broken down in the struggle.

10. As I intimated by my telegram of the 28th October last, I shall be ready to sanction the expenditure needed to make your relief operations as complete and effective as possible. During a considerable number of years the Government of India has set

apart a portion of its revenue to enable it more effectually to deal with such an emergency as has now arisen. You are therefore in a better position to provide the necessary funds for effectual relief without unduly burdening your finances. I am confident that public sentiment in India will support your Government in spending the public money ungrudgingly, though prudently, in the relief of distress. I can assure you of the sympathy of Her Majesty's Government and of your countrymen at home in the task before you.

11. On your Excellency and the officials in India must primarily rest the burden of battling with the grave calamity before us, and constant interference from home in the detailed working of the vast and complicated organisation you are controlling would be useless and mischievous.

12. It is, however, necessary that I should receive prompt periodical information as to the progress, adequacy, and results of these relief works, so that I may be able to judge and advise upon the general conduct and course of your operations.

13. The courage, decision and promptitude with which the outset of this visitation has been met by your Excellency and your coadjutors inspire me with every confidence and hope in the eventual success of your proceedings.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) GEORGE HAMILTON.

APPENDIX B.

(*Vide* page 7).

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT THE DALHOUSIE INSTITUTE, CALCUTTA, ON JANUARY 14, 1897.

THE public meeting, convened by the Sheriff of Calcutta, on a largely signed requisition, was held in the Dalhousie Institute on 14th January, to establish a fund for the alleviation of distress in those provinces of India which are suffering from famine. His Excellency the Viceroy presided, and the Institute was crowded. Amongst those present were the Ladies Elizabeth, Veronica, and Christian Bruce, the Marquis and Marchioness of Bredalbane, Mrs. Durand, Sir Alexander and Lady Mackenzie, the Bishop of Calcutta, the Chief Justice, Archbishop Goethals, Father Lafont, Messrs. M. C. Turner and S. E. J. Clarke, Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore, Raja Gobind Lall Roy, Maharaja Sir Norendro Krishna, Mr. H. C. Williams, Sir John Lambert, Raja Surja Kant Acharjya, Hon. Mr. C. C. Stevens, Mr. R. Steel, Mr. E. N. Baker, Rev. Father Marchal, Hon. Moulvie Mohomed Yusuff, Hon. Mr. Finucane, Hon. Mr. Bolton, Hon. Mr. Risley, Hon. Mr. Cadell, Hon. Sir Griffith Evans, Hon. Sir James Westland, Hon. Mr. H. E. M. James, Sir John Woodburn, Hon. Mr. Glass, Hon. Mr. Glendinning, Hon. Mr. P. Playfair, Mr. Gayer, Dr. Simpson, Mr. Laurie Johnstone, Mr. Scaramanga, Hon. Mr. W. H. Grimley, Mr. H. M. Rustomjee, Mr. Ghosal, Mr. Abdul Rahman, Hon. Mr. Rees, Maharaja of Darbhanga, Hon. Mr. Chalmers, Prince Mahomed Bukhtyar Shah, Hon. Mr. Ananda Charlu, Hon. Mr. R. M. Sayani, Hon. Pundit Bishambar Nath, Hon. Mr. Joy Gobind Law, Mr. C. L. Tupper and Hon. Mr. A. Wallis.

Rai Bahadur Shew Bux Bagla, the Sheriff of Calcutta, on His Excellency the Viceroy taking his seat on the dâis, declared the meeting open. He said: It is now my duty to read the requisition signed and sent to me by several prominent and leading citizens of Calcutta, and in compliance with it I have convened this meeting:—

Calcutta, 7th January. To the Sheriff, Sir,—We the undersigned hereby request you to call a public meeting of the inhabitants of this City, to take into consideration the measures necessary to organize public charity in view of the famine which is now causing such widespread suffering throughout the country.

Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore, in moving that His Excellency the Viceroy be requested to accept the office of chairman of the meeting, said: On a grave occasion like the present, when, in view of the dire calamity which threatens the country, measures will be considered to bring relief to many millions of the suffering population of this vast Empire, it is certainly meet that the august

representative of our Gracious Sovereign, whose kindly sympathy for Her Indian subjects is too well known, should preside, and we are truly grateful to His Excellency that, with the many and multifarious important calls upon his time and attention, he has been generously pleased to give precedence to the call of humanity. I beg to propose, gentlemen, that His Excellency the Viceroy be respectfully requested to occupy the chair.

Mr. C. H. Moore formally seconded the proposal, which was carried unanimously.

THE VICEROY'S SPEECH.

His Excellency the Viceroy, who, on rising, was received with cheers, then spoke as follows:—

Your Honor, Ladies and Gentlemen,—We are met this afternoon under circumstances which I believe to be unprecedented. It is not that meetings have not been held before in Calcutta and elsewhere arising out of the distress of the people and for the purpose of calling to their aid the generosity of the charitable. If for twenty years the necessity has not arisen, I venture to say that none of those who have been responsible for the Government, none of those who, officially or unofficially, have studied the condition of the people of India, can have failed to recognise that in any single year the spectre of famine might present itself at our doors. The interest with which we watch the labours of the able gentleman at the head of our Meteorological Department testifies to an ever-present anxiety. Nor is this occasion unprecedented because of the criticism which the Government has encountered, or even of the nature of that criticism. Governments are made to be criticised, and, for my part, I have always thought that fair and honourable criticism affords valuable assistance which no Government can despise. (Applause) But, where I think this occasion has no parallel, is the wide field over which our operations must extend. The meetings in Madras in 1877, in Calcutta in 1874, had to deal with distress which could not well have been more acute in the important areas affected; but never before has the appeal for help come from so many directions. I hold in my hand telegrams from all the Heads of Local Governments expressing their cordial approval of this movement and promising their ready co-operation. This movement may, therefore, well be termed a national one, and I appeal to all that, with that fact before us, minor controversies should cease. Whatever differences of opinion may have existed, henceforth let us have no gaps in our ranks, but face the future as one man. (Applause.)

I am emboldened to say this to you because I know I am repeating the desire of one whose merest wish will have more weight than any words of mine. I am permitted to announce that Her Majesty the Queen-Empress has been graciously pleased to become Patron of this Fund. (Applause). It is Her wish that its operations should be conducted on broad and imperial lines, and that fact unites us

with our fellow- subjects in all parts of the world in one undivided and indissoluble phalanx. (Applause.)

It may be, nay it must be, to all of us a matter of regret that the sufferings of Her Indian subjects must mingle with the memories of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's glorious reign ; but if that is now inevitable, at all events there can be nothing more entirely consonant with the spirit of Her reign than the charity and good-will, imperial, all embracing, which is the lesson our Sovereign has taught us. (Applause.)

I am reluctant to detain you at any length, but I think it incumbent on me to say a few words about the objects of the fund it is proposed to institute, and the means by which they may be attained.

I can quite understand that it is not easy for those unacquainted with the system under which Government works to appreciate the distinction drawn between the obligations lying upon Government and the objects to which, with the concurrence and co-operation of Government, charitable funds may be devoted. The Government system and the principles on which it rests, are no new things discovered by us for this emergency ; we inherit in them the labours of generations of statesmen and the experience of men who have grappled with the foe and have overcome him. They originate, I think, in the fact that it is impossible to predict of any single year that famine will not come, and in the magnitude of the disaster when it does come. That means, that an adequate organisation must be ready beforehand to cope with it ; and obviously no organisation can be continuously ready to cope with an Indian famine except one for which Government makes itself responsible. The numbers alone make anything else impracticable. We read of 1¼ millions of people being on relief work, and we know that even that number may be doubled or trebled. That means a failure of crops and a distress which is most grievous, but it also means that these millions of people are, by the action of Government, save from what, without it, would only too probably have been death by starvation. Moreover, it is necessary not only to provide for large numbers, but to do so in a way that will meet a very rapid and sudden increase. Last week's return of persons relieved showed an increase in the single district of Allahabad from 40,000 to 98,000. Let any one attempt to realise what is implied in providing the whole machinery of famine relief for 60,000 additional people in a week in one single district, and he will admit that we have a right to feel some confidence in a system which possesses such powers of expansion, and to desire to retain its action unimpeded.

If, then, Government is to maintain its relief works by which the population, as a whole, can be kept in good condition, its poor-houses for the more destitute poor, its gratuitous relief for the feeble and dependent, I hear it again asked, what is private charity to do? I think, if you will look to the definition of the objects which we have drawn up, you will find that through them all we invoke the exercise of individual effort. It is by the work of individuals,

officials and non-officials, of men and women working among those who know and trust them, that we can hope to discover where comforts beyond the subsistence ration become a necessity, where domestic privacy conceals misery and starvation, where we can do something to make up to the orphan for the loss of a father's care, to the honest man of an independence he valued well nigh as highly as his life. (Applause.) This is a work thoroughly in accord with the best traditions of Indian charity—a charity which has carried us through many a time of peril, and only fails us when, under severe pressure, the sources on which it ordinarily depends run dry. Indian charity has not now been inactive, and in many cases what we have to do is to supplement and encourage its work. There exists in many centres local committees which will be the backbone of any organisation that we now create. They have been working in concert with the local Governments, and their number can, I doubt not, be increased if need be.

I cannot too strongly impress upon you my sense of the importance of laying the full responsibility for the actual administration of charitable funds on those who are in a position to act with knowledge of the local circumstances. Any attempt at minute control over all India from one centre will result in lamentable failure. I, therefore, earnestly hope that in accordance with the scheme of organisation which will be submitted to the meeting, the formation of Provincial Committees will follow closely on the formation of the Central Committee here to-day; and that the principles of action being once laid down, the Provincial Committees will be allowed the amplest discretion in the management of their own funds. These funds will consist, in the first place, of all subscriptions which the donors desire should be exclusively devoted to their own Province; and, in the second place, of the proportion of the General Fund which may be allotted to the Province by the Central Committee. The General Fund should consist of the money entrusted to the Central Committee, either by those in India who desire to give help wherever it is most required or by those in England and elsewhere who cannot, from so great a distance, determine themselves where the great need may be. I feel certain that this division and definition of duties from the first will promote efficiency and prevent waste. The Central Committee, in the collection of subscriptions and in the determination of their allocation, will have enough to do to tax the energies of the most devoted workers, and a duty which only a body of a representative character, with the fullest sense of its responsibility, can adequately discharge. In the Provincial Committees they will find no rivals, but allies, who will bring to the whole system the elasticity on which its success will mainly depend.

I scarcely think, Ladies and Gentlemen, that it is necessary for me to promise the help and co-operation of Government and its officers in every department of this work. My honourable friend, Sir John Woodburn, last week paid a just tribute to the spirit in which local officers (by which I am sure he meant all local officers,

Native and European) are meeting the call made upon them. We know by only too sad experience that they do not hesitate to risk health and strength, and even life itself, and I am confident that their assistance and co-operation will be readily and fully given towards employing to the best advantage the fund we are about to raise.

Those who control public affairs and public money, must be content sometimes to appear cold and calculating, for it is part of their duty to ignore their personal feelings. But warm hearts beat under official waistcoats, and I believe few welcome an opportunity like this more than those who habitually wear the chains of official constraint. And what is this opportunity? I can only speak for myself, but I shall consider that I had ill-used the advantages of the last three years if I could view, unmoved, the sufferings of a people whose patient and contented disposition, in a lot that has few pleasures and many hardships, has often filled me with admiration. (Applause.)

I rejoice to see a wave of sympathy sweeping away all distinctions of class or race or creed or opinion. (Applause.) The cry for sympathy that rings in our ears in this land, we know, finds a ready response in the busy streets of London, of Glasgow, and in the crowded manufactories of Lancashire, and will, I believe, not be heard without avail in rural village, the Highland glen, or in any of the distant regions to which our countrymen have carried their energy and their patriotism. (Applause.)

It is a sympathy which is twice blessed—which blesses him that gives and him that takes—and as such I can safely leave it in your hands. (Loud and continued applause.)

THE RESOLUTIONS.

The Hon. Mr. Playfair said: Your Excellency, Your Honor, Mr. Sheriff, Noblemen, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The first resolution which, with Your Excellency's permission I have the honor to propose, requires no impassioned appeal to reach the hearts of those present at this meeting. While the general and seasonable rains that have recently fallen should do much to improve the winter crops and mitigate the calamity of a terrible famine, it is unfortunately unavoidably certain that great scarcity must prevail and bring with it severe privation and distress to many. The people of this country are frugal in habits and of a patient and enduring temperament. They have more than once shown that they can face and bear hardship, assisting each other as is so proverbially characteristic of the poor and only when their own efforts are exhausted, do they appeal for help, and they then turn instinctively to those resources of that paternal Government which have always been and are now being freely given. My Lord, the public revenue cannot be applied to a better purpose than saving the lives of those who pay it. But while the State can do so much, there still remains a great deal that may be supplemented by the beneficence of public charity. It may assist

in supplying those auxiliary wants that may sweeten the dry crust provided by the Government ration, and make life endurable to this frugal and hard-working people. This public charity, as Your Excellency's Government has pointed out, may rescue orphans and provide for their maintenance during the period of distress. It may reach those whose social position, or the tenets of religion, make it difficult for them to obtain relief under the Famine Code. It may be usefully employed to give a fresh start in life by providing cattle or agricultural implements for those who have been compelled to dispose of their stock to procure food. And, I would add, it may assist in the movement of the people from one district to another for diversity of employment. There are no public poor-houses in India such as are known in England upon which the British public spend about twelve millions per annum, for, as I have said, the poor of this country take care of one another, and, therefore, in time of calamity, an appeal, such as the present, to public charity, is inevitable. The present appeal is not that of alms-giving. It is higher than that. It is rather the invocation of that benevolence of brotherhood dictated by the sublimest precepts of the religion of both Christian, Hindu, and Muhammadan, and to which distressed humanity has a legitimate claim. It has gone home to the hearts of the British public and to the English-speaking races throughout the world, including that large army of merchants and traders whose daily vocations are so intimately associated with India. No trade of first importance is conducted in this country without the aid of native agency, and by the union of the resources of the West and the East, the external trade of this Empire has risen until it last year reached the very important commercial value of over 201 crores. While it has to be recognised that Landlords, Merchants, and Traders of this country are themselves severe sufferers from the failure of crops, and have already expended much money in alleviating distress, I still believe that they will yet, of their liberality, add to their benevolence by supporting the charitable fund I am about to propose should be formed, but I look and rely upon voluntary aid from beyond India to raise this fund of relief to a position worthy of the great nation to which we belong. I have, therefore, the honor to propose :—

"That this meeting recognises the fact that the time has come when a charitable fund should be formed for the relief of distress in the famine-stricken districts of India, such relief being supplementary of the operations of Government and designed to meet cases not clearly or adequately covered by those operations, and that to this end subscriptions should be invited from the well-to-do throughout this country and contributions from abroad be thankfully received."

Maharaja Bahadur Sir Norendra Krishna, K.C.I.E., in seconding the Resolution, said: Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The failure of the rice crops, the staple food of the people of this country, owing to the cessation of rains in the month of October last, in certain districts of Bengal, and many places situated in the North-Western Provinces, is likely to create a famine, and as information has been received by Government that distress exists among the people on account of the non-production of food-grains required by them,

it has wisely established relief charges under the superintendence of qualified officers for the purpose of organising relief works, on which people having no means of subsistence will be enlisted, buying food for their consumption from the amount of wages received by them. Government also generously proposes to afford gratuitous relief to men, women, and children, who are unable to work, and who are ashamed to be employed on these works. The formation of a charitable fund will strengthen its hands in affording relief to those who are precluded by the rules from obtaining help from the Government. I am glad to observe that the people of England have evinced a genuine sympathy for those of this country in their hour of need by voluntarily coming forward to our help, and the Lord Mayor of London would have long ago opened a fund of this nature if His Excellency the Viceroy had been apprised by the citizens of Calcutta of their desire to comply with His Lordship's wishes. We must express our grateful thanks to the Lord Mayor and the people of England for their humane offer of assistance. I am sure you will all be gratified to learn that a charitable fund has been formed in England, and that our Gracious Queen Mother, with her well-known love for her Indian subjects, has been graciously pleased to subscribe 8,000 rupees to that fund, thus setting an example for imitation to others. Our humblest and most respectful thanks are, therefore, due to Her Imperial Majesty.

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor said: Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I venture to speak to this resolution on behalf, not only of Bengal, but of all the other local Governments who are affected by the present scarcity. I do not propose to take up the time of the meeting by entering upon any statistical survey of the situation, either here or elsewhere. The facts are notorious and the situation undesirably bad—not, thank God, so bad as it easily might have been, but quite bad enough to warrant this appeal to charity and to put a heavy strain upon the resources of Government, both in men and money. We have, moreover, very close before us a time when distress must inevitably deepen, and when, to the ordinary difficulties of relief work, will be superadded difficulties of season and climate, the rigours of the hot weather, and the drenching rains of the monsoon. I ask your sympathy, gentlemen, for all those actively engaged in the work of relief, who are risking health of life itself in the effort to mitigate distress. All that we can do to make their tas' easier and their labours more effective should be freely and gladly offered. On their behalf, and on behalf of the Government whom they serve, I thankfully accept the aid which this fund is being formed to give. We shall vie with each other, my Lord, not, I trust, in the numbers on our works or in subsisting on your charity, for in these respects the Province which stands last will have most to be thankful for; but in making the best use of the means placed at our disposal. It is in its application to the third object in the Government of India programme for utilising subscriptions that I, for my part, most welcome the fund. We can find work comparatively easily for all who are able to wield a mattock or carry a load. But that "poor respectable class" described in

the programme, who would rather die in their desolate homes than apply for Government relief with its necessarily rigorous enquiries, and its stringent labour tests—it is they who will benefit most by the existence of this fund. And your Executive Committees will find such pensioners not merely in districts where famine has been officially proclaimed, but in every district and town where prices have for months been ruling, and are likely for months to remain, at what are practically famine rates. My Lord, I trust that we shall have a liberal response to this appeal. And while expecting the wealthy to give freely of their abundance, as

The Gods send corn
Not for the rich men only—

I shall specially welcome a large number of small subscribers, because that will prove that the sympathy with this movement is as widespread as the necessities for it are great.

The Hon'ble Mr. Alan Cadell said: I come forward to support this resolution, and I do so with greater satisfaction, because I am sure, both from what I have observed and from what I have heard from others, that Government relief measures are useful in so far as they relieve the great bulk of the people, but however well and liberally the officers of Government may do their work in these measures of ordinary relief, there are, in all parts, very many people whom it is extremely difficult to reach, and above all in those towns, and they are very numerous, which are largely inhabited by decayed communities. There are not only those whom the customs of the country prevent from appearing in public, but others whom traditional self-respect and pride prevent from being open applicants for relief except when they are urged by extreme necessity. Experience has shown that the relief of such persons is best arranged for with the aid of private funds managed by local committees working in concert with the Government, because an intimate knowledge of each applicant for relief is necessary for the economical distribution and apportionment of the funds. Past experience has shown how much such assistance is wanted, and what a blessing it brings to the unfortunate people who in times of difficulty stand in need of it. It is a well known fact that when distress is felt in the North-Western Provinces, a number of towns in the West suffer most, and in the East, where the agricultural conditions are somewhat different, the distress is less severe. There is ample scope for the efforts of private charity, and there can be little doubt that both in the West and in the East there will be an ample field for the benevolence of the public, and that, not only in those districts in which the famine is most felt, and in which the failure of the crops has been most complete, but the charity of the public will be most useful in those districts in which the need of the people arises chiefly from the prevailing high prices, which have brought severe distress to those whose small incomes barely suffice for their support, even in ordinary seasons. Notwithstanding the responsibility assumed by the Government, the provinces which might be assigned to

private benevolence, are very extensive, and for my own part I think there is danger that even the most immediate and necessary duty of all, that of supplying the means of living to the public and those just removed from the labouring classes, will form a task which will tax, to a considerable extent, the labour and organisation which we have met this afternoon to initiate. In many districts in the North-Western Provinces, subscriptions have been collected and relief is now being given on the lines which have been indicated in the resolutions of this meeting, and I am sure that in all provinces the prospect of help from beyond its immediate vicinity will be gladly and cordially welcomed.

His Grace Archbishop Paul Goethals, S.J., said: I have great pleasure in supporting the first resolution, which has been so eloquently moved by my friend the Hon'ble Mr. Playfair, and ably seconded and supported by the speakers who followed him.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ananda Charlu said: Your Excellency, Your Honor, Ladies and Gentlemen,—With your permission I support this proposition. I do it most heartily and readily. Whatever may be my private opinion as to the opportuneness of this step, I have not the slightest hesitation to declare that we are not one day too soon in making the appeal to-day. The appeal, in the first instance, will go to the rich and well-to-do, but it should not stop there. I need not to remind my Hindu hearers that the relief of suffering was part of their lives. Their sacred books exhort them to acts of charity. It is to be remembered that the whole country is in the shadow of a great famine, and if salvation is to come, their appeal must be heard beyond the seas, and by every friend of humanity. There are millions of people on whom the Government could bestow a starvation existence, and they could not do better than to spend their money on them. Then we have to consider the poor, the fatherless, and those who are too proud to beg and too honest to steal. They had to thank the British public for the prompt response made to their appeal.

The Hon'ble Mr. Sayani then said: Your Excellency, Your Honor, Mr. Sheriff, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have very great pleasure in supporting the resolution. It is admitted now on all hands that the time has come when a charitable fund should be formed for the relief of distress in the famine-stricken districts. This day four weeks ago, a public meeting was held in my own city of Bombay, which meeting was presided over by our noble-minded and sympathetic Governor, Lord Sandhurst, and a fund for the relief of the distressed in the Bombay Presidency was formed at that meeting. The details of the distress prevailing at that time in my presidency were given at that meeting, and subsequent events have been, from time to time, narrated by the energetic and enterprising public press, and a lucid summary was given last Thursday at the Council meeting by the Hon'ble Sir John Woodburn. I will not, therefore, take up your time by reiterating the facts connected with the distress, as you are now all well acquainted with them. I will only venture to impress on your minds the fact that, however ample be the resources of Government, however

determined its willingness to support the sufferers, and however high its capacity to adequately perform this part of its duty, Government, as a Government, cannot possibly cope with the whole distress in all its bearings, and that there is always an ample scope for private charity to supplement the efforts of Government. In fact, a recourse to private charity is, therefore, advisable, and, at the present juncture, even indispensable; for you know that numbers of your countrymen are actually suffering from the distress, and dreadful are the tales of this harrowing and heartrending calamity. The number of sufferers is so large, and the places where suffering prevails are so numerous, that there is a widespread desire for appealing to private charity. Thousands of people are observed to be actually dying of sheer starvation, and prompt action has become absolutely necessary. Under the benign rule of our Government, preservation of life is considered—and rightly considered—a paramount duty, and when the lives of thousands and thousands of human beings are weighing in the balance, no time has to be lost in such an emergency, and vigorous action has to be taken. It is also advisable that Government should take part in such an appeal; in ordinary times, no doubt, it is always advisable that Government should restrict itself to its own duty as Government; but a crisis like the present one is not an ordinary matter. Direful as is the present calamity, it is very near going to be the greatest calamity of this century, so far at least as this country is concerned. Government, besides being a Government, are, in such matters, the natural leaders of the country, in fact, its first and foremost citizens whose proud privilege it is to lead the van in the cause of humanity, and I have no doubt whatever that all of us here are, and the whole of the country behind us is, extremely gratified to see His Excellency the Viceroy amongst us this evening, as the first citizen in this Empire, giving a powerful stimulus to this movement by his personal presence, which is a matter for deep congratulation. The burning question of the hour is to collect funds and to apply them to the relief of sufferers. For the reasons above stated, I heartily support the resolution, and I trust the public will cordially respond to the invitation contained in this resolution by heartily supporting this movement and by generously contributing, each according to his means, to the fund which is proposed to be formed by this resolution, and I have no doubt that, poor as India is, my countrymen, who have been always noted for their charitable disposition towards suffering humanity, will do their best to respond to our appeal; and in this connection I will ask them to emulate the most excellent and praiseworthy example of His Highness the Maharaja of Darbhanga, who has, it is publicly stated, intimated his readiness and willingness to contribute eight lakhs of rupees towards relief works, and, in addition thereto, to spend eight lakhs of rupees more to relieve distress as also to remit rents, if necessary, on his estate. The contributions collected in India, with the princely donations from England, will go far to relieve human misery in this country, which Government cannot reach, and I heartily commend this resolution for your approval.

The Hon'ble Pandit Bishambar Nath said he had great pleasure in supporting the first resolution. It had been so strongly and forcibly moved, seconded, and supported, that he could say very little more to bring it to their notice. Since the Queen-Empress had been graciously pleased to set a noble example, it was high time, in the words of His Excellency, that the long arm of private benevolence should be outstretched for alleviation of distress in the famine-stricken provinces of India. The distress was greatest in the North-Western Provinces, from whence he came, and he gave his own testimony that Sir Antony MacDonnell was leaving no stone unturned in his efforts to relieve the people suffering from famine there.

The motion was then put and carried with acclamation.

FORMATION OF A COMMITTEE.

His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur of Darbhanga, who was received with loud applause, in moving the second resolution said: Your Excellency, Your Honor, Mr. Sheriff, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have the honor to move the resolution which stands in my name and which runs as follows:—

"That this meeting accepts the statements of the objects to which private subscriptions may legitimately be devoted, as set forth by the Government in the *Gazette of India* of the 9th January, and the organisation there suggested for the collection and administration of subscription to the Fund; and *resolves* that a General Committee, composed of the following gentlemen,* be appointed, with power to add to their number, and to appoint an Executive Committee to administer the Fund."

After the eloquent speeches that you have just heard, I do not think it necessary for me to inflict a very long speech on you, nor do I propose to do so, for I do not wish to enter into any controversial matter. I know that there are some who seem to think that the principles laid down in the Government *Gazette* of the 9th June did not go far enough, but I am not going to enter into the details of the question. I think that all of us are united in thinking that, however much some of us may disagree with regard to some matters of detail, it is much better for us to work in co-operation with the District officials and local Governments, than to act independently. I think unanimity of action in a matter of this sort is likely to bear greater fruit than if some of us were to work independently. (Cheers). Then as regards the formation of local committees, I think there is a wide field for private and individual charity, and for local committees to work, and my opinion on this point was strengthened by a conversation I had with His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, Sir Antony MacDonnell. I feel convinced that the Local Governments themselves are well aware of the difficulty that exists in finding out a certain class of persons, who, although they may be suffering from starvation, are still averse to seeking relief either at the poor-houses or by going to any of the relief works. To give relief to people of

* The list will be found at the end of the proceedings, page 136.

this class has been a matter of considerable anxiety, I know to these two Local Governments, and I think the local committees can help the Government to a great extent in finding out this class of people. With these words, gentlemen, I will resume my seat.

The Hon'ble Sir Francis Maclean, Chief Justice of Bengal, seconded the resolution. He said: May it please Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I can assure you it is with real diffidence—a quality which is not generally attributed to the members of my profession—that I rise to second this resolution, a diffidence arising from the fact that notwithstanding the kind, the almost too kind, hand of welcome which has been stretched out to me, I must be, to many of you, if not to most, nothing more than a stranger, and upon an occasion of this sort I feel some diffidence in addressing a meeting at once so important in its object, so impressive in its composition, and so influential in its results. And that feeling of diffidence is rather enhanced when I find myself standing upon this platform, surrounded by gentlemen both here and in the body of the hall, gentlemen who devoted their lives, their genius, and their ability to the aims and ambitions of India, to its statecraft and its government, its wants and requirements, and who by special experience are absolutely skilled in the great and the grave question which has collected us here to-day. But at the same time I beg to assure you of the great personal gratification I feel that upon this the occasion of my first public utterance in your city, I am able to raise my voice conjointly with your own in the cause of suffering humanity. And, Sir, that gratification is increased when I find that my name has been coupled in this resolution with that of the distinguished Maharaja who has just addressed you, whose charity and princely generosity are so well known to you, proving as it does to me that in the great struggle in which we are engaged, European and native, native and European, will stand shoulder to shoulder and back to back against the common enemy, and will engage in the good work of charity and of generosity, irrespective of race or of caste or of creed. And Sir, as the head of the Judiciary in India, I venture confidently to predict from what I have heard and from what I have read that, whatever may be the sufferings of our native fellow subjects, they will be borne with patience and with fortitude as a peace-loving and law-abiding people, and I am satisfied that whatever their sufferings may be, they will not make that an excuse for any organised infraction of the law. Now, Sir, one or two words as to the resolution. As we all know, good wine needs no bush and so good resolutions,—I had perhaps better not say good resolutions, because I have heard that we all make them and that we all break them,—I would rather say that a resolution in favour of suffering sufferers should be deemed as superior to all criticism. This resolution speaks for itself. It asks you to accept the statement of the Government, the position of which in effect is this, that while as a Government it cannot ask for charitable help, it can give all the assistance it possibly can in distributing the funds which the charitable may subscribe. Ladies and gentlemen, I welcome this meeting.

In olden times when the enemy was at the gate, beacon lights used to be lit on all the mountain tops to tell of their coming. The enemy of famine is now at our gates. This meeting of to-night will light the beacon fire of charity and generosity, the glow of which will extend to Great Britain, to Australia, to Canada, and I trust to our cousins in the United States. I have no doubt that this appeal will go to the hearts of all the English-speaking races of the world, and will afford a practical illustration of the words of our great national poet, that one touch of nature makes the whole world akin. I read in the press—nowadays we read so much in the press—I read in the European press that it was suggested by reason of the delay of the Government of India in permitting an appeal to the people of Great Britain that the latter have become chilled in their sympathy, and that their subscriptions will not be forthcoming. I do not believe it, nor, gentlemen, do you. Depend upon it that where Her Majesty the Queen leads, her people will follow. I do not refer to her gift to this fund in respect of any question of generosity, but I venture just to refer to it as a further illustration of that ever-living and ever-loving sympathy which she always displays towards you, whether the sufferer be resident within the ice-bound fields of Canada, or be a starving peasant on the burning plains of India. I cannot but regret that in this year of 1897, and you, ladies and gentlemen, I am sure will share it, I cannot but regret that in this year, one of the most remarkable in the annals of the British crown, the lustre of one of the brightest jewels in it, namely, the Empire of India, should be temporarily dimmed. But I hope with the effort we shall make that before the year is out the lustre may be restored to its pristine beauty. And, Sir, still another reason for welcoming this meeting. The news of it will travel with the celerity with which all news in India travels, from town to town, from village to village, from bazaar to bazaar, and it will convey to the suffering peasant in Bengal and to his almost starving brother in the plains of the Central Provinces the message, the most beloved message of hope. He will learn from this meeting that all that is powerful in India, all that is wealthy in Great Britain and her colonies, is banded together to assist and succour him, and this knowledge will implant in his breast a spirit of greater determination and of higher courage—a spirit of determination and courage which will enable him to grapple, and in a short time successfully, with the demon of famine which is stalking across your land.

His Lordship the Bishop of Calcutta said: Your Excellency, Your Honor, Ladies and Gentlemen,—As speaker after speaker has risen to propose and support this resolution, I have felt deeply impressed with the fact that no words of mine are required in order to arouse a feeling of sympathy on behalf of this audience or the public in general. The Chief Justice has spoken of his very recent arrival among us; but I have known Calcutta for the past twenty years, and I know that an appeal like this requires no resolution to command it to your support. Your Excellency has spoken the word, and that is enough for us. I feel sure that every one of us will welcome the opportunity of showing our substantial sympathy with the suffering

now prevailing. I will go so far as to say that I believe that should it unfortunately happen that this period of famine is likely to be very prolonged, I can confidently say, if Your Excellency shall call on us for a second contribution, we shall all of us be ready. (Cheers.) We speak of this as an appeal: it is rather an invitation which all of us will welcome, for I feel satisfied that all of us who have day by day read of the grievous accounts of the increasing distress, have again and again felt the impulse to do something towards bringing our small quota of relief to bear upon the suffering. The Lieutenant-Governor alluded to the fact, and I was very glad to hear it, that small contributions are indeed to be invited. I may be permitted here to say that I have been wondering whether it was not my duty to call upon all the clergy in the Diocese, and to commend it to the Bishops in the other Provinces, that there should be regular periodical collections in the churches in order that sums should be received from people who could perhaps scarcely pay a very enormous subscription, and should Your Excellency at any time think it desirable that such collections should be made, a hint from you will be sufficient for me to put the machinery in motion. You will see that I am very deeply impressed with the fact that there is a universal desire to express our sympathy with Your Excellency, and with all those splendid and devoted men who are laying down their lives in the localities where the distress prevails, and also to express our appreciation of the way in which the rulers of Native States are meeting their responsibilities; and, above all, to express, if it were possible our deep feelings towards the poor sufferers throughout the land. It is one of the inscrutable dispensations of Providence that these calamities should fall upon us; but surely they have at least some good results if they bring about that unanimity of feeling and sympathy which makes us as has already been said, join hands to bring help to the sufferers wherever they may be found. It only remains for me, gentlemen, to ask you to make good the boast which I have made on behalf of the public of this great city; and, in conclusion, to remind you and them of the prayers we must offer to our Almighty Father that He may vouchsafe the return of those fruitful seasons to this land which will restore plenty and prosperity to the suffering districts in whose interest we are gathered together this afternoon.

Prince Bukhtiyar Shah said: There has been so much said that it hardly needs a word from me. I would only express, on behalf of the Muhammudan community, that they are all in full sympathy with this meeting. With these few words I have much pleasure in supporting the resolution moved by the Maharaja.

The Hon. Babu Joy Gobind Law said: I have great pleasure in adding my humble support to the resolution now before you. The necessity of raising this fund has been dwelt upon by previous speakers, and the present resolution deals with the formation of a committee for the purpose of receiving funds and distributing them. This is a public subscription, and it is only right and proper that the public should have a voice in the disposal of the funds; but this can

only be done by a committee, and it is for this reason that it has been proposed to form this committee. The names of the gentlemen who are to compose this committee are before you, and as they are all well known to you all, it is unnecessary for me to say anything to commend them for your acceptance. Therefore I only repeat that it gives me great pleasure to support the resolution.

VOTE OF THANKS.

Mr. C. L. Tupper moved

That a cordial vote of thanks be passed to His Excellency the Viceroy for presiding on this occasion, and for his kindly accepting the official Presidentship of the General Committee.

In doing so he said : The resolution which stands in my name on the paper is not one with regard to which I need trouble any one with any arguments. I have no doubt that it will be passed, if possible, with greater unanimity than any resolution that has been passed to-day. But if you will pardon me for detaining you for a minute or two, I should like to make one or two remarks in connection with what has fallen from His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.

He said, in the first place, that he thought he was interpreting the sentiments of other local Governments beside Bengal in cordially supporting the present movement. If I may venture to speak for the Punjab, that local Government would entirely and fully adhere to the principle which Sir Alexander Mackenzie indicated. In the second place, the Lieutenant-Governor mentioned, with special emphasis, one of the objects to which private charity might be devoted in times of famine. I venture to entirely agree with what he said on this point, and to illustrate it from my own personal experience within the last few weeks. I was touring near Shapur, not very far from Rawalpindi, and the distress experienced there is an illustration of the kind of distress to which reference has been made. That distress is what we call only partial, and it is among people who seek service in the army and also in the Civil departments of Government. There are many pensioners there who find themselves reduced to great distress, and there are also many others who, as Sir Alexander Mackenzie has said, did not like to come to the relief works because they were ashamed. Now what did the Deputy Commissioner do? He did on a small scale what is now to be done on a larger scale; he organised small local committees in five or six centres to receive private subscriptions, and he encouraged persons to form small committees and give relief according to their own personal knowledge. I think this shows that what Sir Alexander Mackenzie has pointed out is an important matter to be provided for.

The Hon. Mr. A. Wallis said: I have the honour to second the resolution which is now before you, and that is to pass a cordial vote of thanks to His Excellency the Viceroy for presiding at this meeting, and I am sure that you will afford this resolution the support which it deserves. His Excellency's presence here is a sufficient

proof that he really takes the greatest interest in the movement which has been set on foot, and I am perfectly certain that it will result in alleviating the sufferings of many of our fellow-subjects. The fact of His Excellency taking the chair this afternoon, and also of his agreeing to act as President of the General Committee, will ensure the success of the movement and lead to large subscriptions being sent in. With these remarks I would ask you to accept this resolution.

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, in putting the vote of thanks to the meeting, said: It has been moved, seconded, and supported that a cordial vote of thanks be passed to His Excellency for presiding on this occasion, and for his kindly accepting the official Presidentship of the General Committee; but before putting the resolution to the meeting, I would just like to say one word, and that is, it is only those who have been associated with His Excellency in the arrangement of the preliminaries of this meeting, who can understand the great care and attention that he has given to the details of the organisation; every phase of this scheme as it comes before the public was settled beforehand, and I feel very sure that whatever success it meets with, will be due to the great trouble and care with which His Excellency has prepared the scheme.

His Excellency the Viceroy said: Your Honor, Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,—In acknowledging the approval with which this resolution has been received, I desire specially to thank the mover, Mr. Tupper, not only for what he has said, but for his attendance and also the other gentlemen who have attended this meeting from the Punjab. They have taken the most practical manner of showing the interest which their part of the Empire feels in the movement which we are initiating to-day, and I think it is perhaps consistent with that sympathy that the last telegram which was put into my hand before I came to the meeting was one from the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab to this effect:

"Clear the line. Excellent rain at Lahore all night; still pouring steadily; looks widespread." (Applause.)

I have only to say that, as His Honor has just said, I have taken a great interest in the arrangements for this meeting, and I shall take great interest in what I hope will be the success of the movement which we have now started. During the course of the meeting the first list of subscriptions was put into my hands, and I find that it already amounts to something like a lakh of rupees. (Applause.)

I have to announce, on behalf of the Chief Justice of Bengal, who has been good enough, as you are aware, to accept the Chairmanship of the General Committee, that he proposes to summon a General Committee to meet in this place to-morrow afternoon at 4 o'clock to appoint an Executive Committee. This will show you that no time will be lost in getting to work, and with the assistance which we know is coming to us from home, I have no doubt that the movement will succeed. (Applause.)

The meeting then dispersed.

TELEGRAMS.

The following telegrams were received from Heads of Provinces relating to the institution of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund :—

From Governor of Madras. To Viceroy, Calcutta.—"The movement for the organisation of Charitable Famine Relief Fund seems now to be called for, and has my full sympathy."

From Governor of Bombay. To Viceroy, Calcutta.—"I am very glad Your Excellency is to preside at meeting for charitable aid for Famine. The object has my warmest sympathy. I will do my utmost to assist in Bombay."

From Lieutenant-Governor, N.-W. P. To Viceroy, Calcutta.—"I ask Your Excellency's permission to express my sympathy with the movement to raise a charitable fund for the further relief of distress in India. Although the State organisation supplies all relief which is substantially necessary, still there is much room for private charity in helping to alleviate the minor forms of distress. In the further alleviation of these, I gladly welcome the help of private charity, and I promise to the committee to be formed at to-morrow's meeting, the earnest and cordial support of this Government."

From Lieutenant-Governor of Punjab. To Viceroy.—"I most cordially approve of the movement for raising Charitable Famine Relief Fund which Your Excellency is now inaugurating."

From Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces. To Viceroy, Calcutta.—"I heartly join with Your Excellency in hoping that Thursday's meeting will be a success. In the Central Provinces there is ample scope for large and most useful application of private charity outside of the ground covered by Government relief."

From Chief Commissioner, Burma. To Viceroy, Calcutta.—"I desire to express my sympathy with the object of the meeting to be held on Thursday, in order to start organisation for receiving and administering public subscriptions for famine relief, which meets with general approval in Burma. A Famine Relief Committee has already been formed in Rangoon by certain native gentlemen, and a meeting of leading Europeans and natives will be held to-day to nominate members from Burma to serve on General Committee."

GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND.

The following is the list of names of the Officers and Members of the General Committee appointed by the second Resolution passed at the meeting held at the Dalhousie Institute (*Vide* page 129):—

PATRON:

HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN-EMPRESS.

PRESIDENT:

H. E. The Earl of Elgin, G.M.S.I., G.M.I.E., Viceroy and Governor General of India.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

H. E. The Lord Sandhurst, G.C.I.E., Governor of Bombay.
H. E. Sir Arthur Havelock, G C.M.G., G.C.I.E., Governor of Madras.
H. E. General Sir George White, V.C., G.C.I.E., K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief in India.
H. H. Sir Alexander Mackenzie, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.
H. H. Sir A. P. MacDonnell, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of the N.-W. Provinces.
H. H. Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab.
Sir Frederick Fryer, K.C.S.I., Chief Commissioner of Burma.
Mr. C. J. Lyall, C.S.I., C.I.E., Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces.
Mr. H. J. S. Cotton, C.S.I., Chief Commissioner of Assam.

CHAIRMAN:

The Hon'ble Sir Francis W. Maclean, Chief Justice of Bengal.

COMMITTEE:

The Lord Bishop of Calcutta.
The Hon'ble Sir James Westland, K.C.S.I.
The Hon'ble Sir J. Woodburn, K.C.S.I.
The Hon'ble Mr. M. D. Chalmers.
The Hon'ble Major-General Sir E H. H. Collen, K.C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Mr. A. C. Trevor, C.S.I.
Mr. R. J. Crosthwaite, C.S.I., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana.
Lieut.-Colonel D. W. K. Barr, C.S.I., Agent to the Governor-General in Central India.
Mr. T. J. C. Chichele-Plowden, C.S.I., Resident at Hyderabad.
The Hon'ble Mr. H. E. M. James, Commissioner in Sind.
The Hon'ble Mr. Alan Cadell, C.S.I.
The Hon'ble Rahimtula Muhammad Sayani.
The Hon'ble Bishambhar Nath.
Mr. J. P. Hewett, C.I.E.
Mr. D. C. J. Ibbetson, C.S.I.
Colonel W. S. S. Bisset, C.I.E.
Major-General G. deC. Morton, C.B.
Major-General A. R. Badcock, C.B., C.S.I.
Surgeon-Major-General A. A. Gore.
Surgeon-Major-General J. Cleghorn.
Dr. J. W. von Waldthausen, Consul-General for Germany.
M. A. Klobukowski, Consul-General for France.

Lieut.-Colonel Gardiner, R.E., Agent of the East Indian Railway.
Lieut.-Colonel H. C. Thornton.
The Prince of Arcot.
The Maharaja of Vizianagram, G.C.I.E.
The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili, K.C.I.E.
The Raja of Venkatagiri.
Archbishop Colgan.
The Hon'ble Mr. Rees.
The Hon'ble Mr. Ananda Charlu.
The Hon'ble Mr. Bhashyam Aiyangar.
The Hon'ble Mr. Rajaratnam Mudaliar.
The Hon'ble Mr. Rangiah Naidu.
The Hon'ble Muhammad Sheriff, Khan Bahadur.
Mr. G. G. Arbuthnot.
Raja Sir Savalai Ramasami Mudaliar.
Colonel Moore.
Mr. R. G. Orr.
Mr. Waljee Laljee Sait.
Mr. Cowasjee Eduljee Panday.
Mr. G. Subrahmanya Aiyar.
Mr. G. Cotton.
Mr. S. M. Moses.
The Hon'ble Mr. N. N. Wadia, C.I.E.
Mr. Ghelabhai Haridas.
Mr. Gobindji Thakersay.
Mr. Harkisondas Narotamdas.
Dr. Bhalchandra K. Bhalawade.
The Hon'ble Mr. A. M. Dharamsi.
Mr. Suleman A. Wahed.
Khan Bahadur Edalji Rastamji, Vice-President, Ahmednagar Municipality.
The Hon'ble Mr. J. K. Spence, I.C.S., Commissioner, Central Division, Bombay.
Mr. Ebden, I.C.S., Commissioner, Southern Division, Bombay.
Mr. Charles, I.C.S., Collector, Ahmednagar.
Mr. Lamb, I.C.S., Collector, Poona.
Mr. Weir, I.C.S., Acting Collector, Sholapur.
Mr. G. D. Panse, Acting Collector, Bijapur.
Mr. Lakhamgowda Basaprabha Desai, Belgaum District.
Mr. Dorabji Padamji, the President of the Poona Municipality.
Mr. Virchand Dipchand, of Sholapur.
Archbishop Goethals.
The Hon'ble Mr. C. C. Stevens, C.S.I.
The Hon'ble Sir C. G. Paul, K.C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Sir G. H. P. Evans, K.C.I.E.
The Honble Mr. P. Playfair, C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Mr. M. Finucane.
The Hon'ble Mr. A. Wallis.
The Venerable Welbore MacCarthy, Archdeacon of Calcutta.
The Maharaja Bahadur of Darbhanga, K.C.I.E.
The Maharaja Bahadur of Gidhour, K.C.I.E.

Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore, K.C.S.I.
Maharaja Bahadur Sir Norendra Krishna, K.C.I.E.
Maharaja Durga Churn Laha, C.I.E.
Mr. C. H. Moore.
Mr. Lawrie Johnstone.
Mr. R. Steel.
Mr. H. B. H. Turner.
Mr. S. C. Scaramanga.
Mr. S. Finney.
Mr. G. Irving.
Mr. J. E. D. Ezra.
Mr. W. K. Eddis.
Mr. J. O'B. Saunders.
Mr. H. C. Williams.
Mr. W. D. Cruickshank.
Mr. J. A. Toomey.
Sir W. Hudson, K.C.I.E.
Mr. G. Hennessy.
Mr. F. A. Möller.
The Revd. Dr. Macdonald.
Rai Jai Prokash Lal Bahadur, C.I.E.
Maharaja Gobind Lal Roy of Rungpur.
The Hon'ble Nawab Syud Amir Hussain, C.I.E.
Sahebzada Bukhtiyar Shah.
The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chunder Madhub Ghose.
The Hon'ble Mr. Surendranath Banerji.
The Hon'ble Mr. A. M. Bose.
The Hon'ble Mr. Guru Pershad Sen.
Rai Isser Chunder Mitter, Bahadur.
The Hon'ble Mr. Joy Gobind Law.
Nawab Ahsanullah Bahadur, C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Mr. Durgagati Banerjee, C.I.E.
Raja Peari Mohun Mukherjea, C.S.I.
Raja Bun Behari Kapur.
N. N. Ghosh, Esq.
R. D. Mehta, Esq.
Rai Shew Bux Bogla Bahadur.
Babu Kalinath Mitter.
Babu Norendranath Sen.
Babu Romanath Ghose.
Mahamahopadhaya Mohesh Chandra Nyayaratna, C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Sir John Edge, *Kt.*, Q.C., Chief Justice, High Court of Judicature, N.-W. P.
Mr. J. Deas, Judicial Commissioner, Oudh.
The Hon'ble Mr. J. J. La Touche, C.S.I., Senior Member, Board of Revenue, N.-W. P.
The Hon'ble Mr. W. E. Cooper, C I.E., President, Upper India, Chamber of Commerce.
The Bishop of Lucknow.
The Very Revd. Father Damasus, Acting Archbishop of Agra.

His Highness Maharaja Prabhu Narayan Singh, Bahadur, K.C.I.E., of Benares.
Raja Lal Ram Pratab Singh, of Manda, Allahabad District.
Raja Hari Raj Singh, of Kashipur, Moradabad District.
Raja Satrujit Pratab Bahadur Sahi, of Tamkuhi, Gorakpur District.
Nawab Mumtazuddaula Muhammad Faiyyaz Ali Khan of Pahasu, Bulandshahr District.
Raja Fateh Singh, of Pawayan, Shahjahanpur District.
Raja Balwant Singh, of Awa, Etah District.
Maulvi Sir Saiyad Ahmad, Khan Bahadur, K.C.S.I., of Aligarh.
Seth Lachman Das, C.I.E., of Muttra.
His Highness Maharaja Mahendra Mahendra Singh, C.I.E., of Bhadawar.
His Highness the Nawab of Rampur.
Ali Kadr Mirza Inayat Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Maharaja Sir Pratab Narayan Singh, K.C.I.E., of Ajudhya, Fyzabad District.
Raja Bhagwan Bakhsh Singh, of Amethi, Sultanpur District.
Amiruddaula Said-ul-Mulk Mumtaz Jang, Raja Sir Muhammad Amir Hasan Khan, Khan Bahadur, K.C.I.E., of Mahmudabad, Sitapur District
Rana Sir Shankar Baksh Singh, K.C.I.E., of Khajurgaon, Rai-Bareli District.
Raja Tasadduk Rasul Khan, of Jehangirabad, Bara Banki District.
Raja Jang Bahadur Khan, C.I.E., of Naupara, Bahraich District.
Mr. C. L. Tupper, C.S.I., Second Financial Commissioner in the Punjab.
The Hon'ble the Nawab of Loharu, C.I.E.
Bedi Khem Singh, C.I.E.
Sir William Rattigan.
The Revd. Dr. Ewing.
Mr. Nicholl.
Lala Murli Dhar.
Mirzá Suraya Jah.
Ram Kishan Das, Rai Bahadur.
Sardar Jiwan Singh, C.S.I., of Shahzadpur.
Raja Jai Chand, of Lambagraon.
Bedi Sujan Singh of Una.
Mahammud Hyat Khan, C.S.I.
Sardar Bahadur Arjan Singh.
Lala Gagar Mal
Nawab Fateh Ali Khan.
Malik Umar Hyat Khan.
Sardar Sujan Singh.
Sardar Bahadur Jaggat Singh.
Mr. F. C. Anderson, Commissioner of the Jubbulpur Division.
Mr. A. H. L. Fraser, Commissioner of the Nagpur Division.
Mr. L. K. Laurie, Commissioner of the Nerbudda Division.
Colonel J. A. Temple, Commissioner of the Chhatisgarh Division.

Mr. H. J. Stanyon, C.I.E , President of the Jubbulpur Municipality.
Rai Bahádur Seth Ballabh Dás.
Khán Bahádur Maulavi Ali Ahmad.
Khán Bahádur Maulavi Imdád Ali.
Rai Bahádur Lála Nand Kishor.
Khán Sáhib Cowasji Hatti Daru.
Khán Bahádur Aulád Hussain, C.I.E.
Revd. E. A. Molony, C.M.S.
Rai Bahádur Káli Dás Chaudhri.
The Hon'ble Rao Sahib Balwant Rao Bhuskate.
Rai Sahib Seth Sundar Lal.
Mr. Gangadhar Madhav Chitnavis, C.I.E.
Rai Bahádur Seth Kastur Chand.
Rai Bahádur Bipin Krishna Bose.
Rao Bahádur Yádo Rao Pánde.
Rao Bahádur Latavia Bháu of Kámpti.
Rao Bahadur Raghoba Mahadik.
Rai Bahadur Bhuthnath De.
Lieutenant-Colonel Cooke, Financial Commissioner, Burma.
The Hon'ble Mr. G. P. Glendinning
Mr. H. S. Lemon, Bank of Bengal, Calcutta.
Mr. J. G. Dickson.
Mr. A. Pennycuick.
Mr. J. MacGregor.
Maung Tha Hino, Rice Broker.
Maung Gyi, Honorary Magistrate.
Maung Shewe Pe, K. S. M., Honorary Magistrate.
Ismail Munny, Merchant.
Maduraj Pillay, Merchant.
Lalla Pokumall, Merchant.
Ebrahim Ali Mula, Merchant.
Gulam Ariff, Merchant.
B. Cowasji, Barrister.
Li Ahmn, Merchant.

HONORARY SECRETARY:

Colonel J. W. Ottley, C.I.E., R.E.

BANKERS:

The Bank of Bengal.

APPENDIX C.

(*Vide* page 14 of Report.)

Classified List of Subscriptions received by the Central Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1897, from the time of the inauguration of the Fund to the 31st August 1897.

	£ s. d.	R a. p.	R a. p.
UNITED KINGDOM—			
Mansion House	533,000 0 0	85,10,857 2 8	
Lancashire	127,812 0 0	20,31,000 0 0	
Glasgow	53,500 0 0	8,55,000 0 0	
Liverpool	26,000 0 0	4,08,519 1 10	
Edinburgh	17,690 14 7	2,76,981 3 4	
Miscellaneous	848 3 6	13,561 2 1	
£	758,850 18 1		1,20,95,918 9 11
CANADA	...	...	5,70,023 3 2
AUSTRALIA—			
VICTORIA—			
Melbourne	5,000 0 0	73,951 2 3	
Ballarat	147 14 6	2,228 14 11	
NEW SOUTH WALES	1,280 17 7	20,199 7 6	
WESTERN AUSTRALIA—			
Perth	1,372 3 1	21,607 0 0	
Karridale	48 6 3	760 5 1	
QUEENSLAND.			
Brisbane	450 0 0	7,129 2 6	
Toowoomba	100 0 0	1,583 8 2	
Rockhampton	43 0 0	682 5 0	
Normanton	5 2 0	80 4 0	
Maryborough	87 4 0	1,395 3 2	
Townsville	8 7 6	131 12 10	
SOUTH AUSTRALIA—			
Adelaide	345 18 5	5,625 4 3	
Boolero	1 0 0	15 12 0	
£	8,889 13 4		1,40,390 1 8
NEW ZEALAND—			
New Plymouth	2 14 0	43 3 0	
Wanganui	202 1 4	3,184 3 10	
Auckland	407 15 9	6,658 9 3	
Carried forward	612 11 1	9,886 0 1	1,28,06,331 14 9

Classified List of Subscriptions received by the Central Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1897, from the time of the inauguration of the Fund to the 31st August 1897—continued.

	£ s. d.	R a. p.	R a. p.
NEW ZEALAND—*contd.*			
Brought forward .	612 11 1	9,886 0 1	1,28,06,331 14 9
Greymouth . .	61 13 9	1,012 4 10	
Invercargill . .	34 14 1	555 4 2	
Dunedin . .	288 11 10	4,560 7 0	
Hokitika . . .	50 0 0		
Napier . . .	520 19 8		
Westport . .	42 2 9		
City of Christchurch	305 4 11	16,065 0 2	
Waimate . . .	9 15 6		
Palmerston North .	63 0 0		
			32,079 0 3
£	1,988 13 7*		
TASMANIA—			
Launceston . .	299 15 3	4,834 8 0	
Hobart . . .	100 0 0	1,596 10 9	
			6,431 2 9
£	399 15 3		
CHINA—			
Hongkong . .	...	83,035 2 0	
Shanghai . .	...	54,006 11 7	
Tientsin . . .	...	2,409 1 11	
Miscellaneous .	...	51 3 5	
			1,39,502 2 11
JAPAN—			
Yokohama . .	...	30,001 15 6	
Hiogo . . .	...	15,159 13 10	
Nagasaki . .	...	1,743 0 0	
			46,904 13 4
RUSSIA . . .	4,333 0 0	69,423 5 9	
„ Odessa . .	1,863 0 0	28,730 9 6	
			98,153 15 3
£	6,196 0 0		
U. S. AMERICA—			
"Christian Herald," New York . .	...	15,399 15 0	
Boston . . .	...	5,357 7 3	
Miscellaneous .	...	517 10 8	
			21,275 0 11
	Carried forward Rs.		1,31,50,678 2 2

* In addition to the subscriptions specified above, an amount of £750 collected in New Zealand has been remitted direct to the Mansion House. A large sum (about £1,273) has also been collected in the Fiji Islands and remitted direct to London, and probably similar subscriptions may have been received through the same channel.

Classified List of Subscriptions received by the Central Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1897, from the time of the inauguration of the Fund to the 31st August 1897—concluded.

	£	s.	d.		R	a.	p.
	Brought forward			. Rs.	1,31,50,678	2	2
CEYLON	...			...	1,37,083	5	2
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS . .	...			...	68,520	3	4
DEMERARA . .	...			...	364	12	0
GIBRALTAR . .	994	6	3	...	15,745	0	4
NATAL—							
Durban . . .	1,493	19	10	...	24,006	4	2
TRINIDAD . . .	422	0	0	...	6,979	10	10
MAURITIUS . .	...			...	13,000	0	0
SIAM—							
Bangkok . . .	...			...	6,221	1	11
SWEDEN . . .	...			...	5,549	0	7
SWEDEN, DENMARK AND FINLAND (JOINT) . . .	11	6	8	...	187	6	0
NETHERLANDS .	...			...	1,988	7	9
GERMANY . . .	25	0	0	...	395	0	11
ITALY . . .	...			...	190	0	0
PALESTINE . .	38	2	0	...	600	13	3
ARABIA . . .	...			...	200	0	0
TRANSVAAL REPUBLIC . . .	218	0	0	...	3,569	12	10
INDIA	...			...	*8,65,106	3	3
				TOTAL . Rs.	1,43,00,385	4	6

* This amount only includes those subscriptions which have been received by the Central Committee, and does not include contributions received by Provincial and District Committees, expended locally. A list of such subscriptions will be found on the next page.

List showing the total subscriptions received by the Central Executive Committee, each month, from the time of the inauguration of the Fund to 31st August 1897.

					R	a.	p.
Total amount received in			January	1897	4,85,415	9	11
Do.	do.	„	February	„	44,28,598	8	0
Do.	do.	„	March	„	51,04,263	3	11
Do.	do.	„	April	„	12,20,270	8	8
Do.	do.	„	May	„	12,87,703	15	4
Do.	do.	„	June	„	11,32,633	2	9
Do.	do.	„	July	„	4,10,141	7	6
Do.	do.	„	August	„	2,31,358	12	5
			TOTAL Rupees		1,43,00,385	4	6

List of amounts received up to 31st August 1897 by the Provincial and District Committees, to be expended locally.

Province.	Amount. R	a.	p.
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	4,53,734	14	4
Central Provinces[1]	79,993	7	9
Bengal	4,49,873	6	11
Bombay[2]	2,75,189	0	0
Madras[3]	2,29,680	3	3
Punjab	2,69,059	5	4
Central India	67,268	13	0
Burma	43,387	15	1
Berar	77,391	7	9
Rajputana	Nil.		
Baluchistan	Nil.		
TOTAL Rs.	19,45,578	9	5

(1) Return dated 10th September 1897.
(2) „ „ 11th „ „
(3) „ „ 3rd „ „

LOVELOCK & LEWES,
Chartered Accountants,
Treasurers, Indian Famine
Charitable Relief Fund.

APPENDIX D *(see page 22).*

APPENDIX

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF

Dr. *Account of Receipts and Expenditure*

1897									
August 31st	To total amount of subscriptions received by the Central Executive Committee, from the inauguration of the Fund, to date . . .						₹	*a.*	*p.*
	Up to July 31st	₹	1,40,69,026	8	1				
	During August	„	2,31,358	12	5				
							1,43,00,385	4	6
	TOTAL ₹						1,43,00,385	4	6

D *(see page 22).*

FUND 1897, CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

to the end of August 1897. **Cr.**

1897		Up to the 31st July 1897.			During August 1897.				
August 31st	By payments made to Provincial Committees, as follows, to date:—	₹	a.	p.	₹	a.	p.	₹	a. p.
	North-Western Provinces and Oudh Branch	45,93,687	2	1					
	Central Provinces Branch	30,07,038	8	0					
	*Bengal Branch	18,64,709	2	6					
	Bombay „	11,94,250	0	9					
	Madras „	11,64,877	8	0	1,00,000	0	0		
	Punjab „	9,06,583	0	0					
	Central India „	3,25,050	0	0	25,000	0	0		
	Burmah „	2,25,000	0	0	16,000	0	0		
	Berar „	90,000	0	0	20,000	0	0		
	Rajputana „	25,000	0	0					
	Baluchistan „	20,000	0	0					
		1,34,16,195	4	7	1,61,000	0	0	1,35,77,195	4 7
	By Amount paid for 2,500 Blankets for the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Branch							2,968	12 0
	„ Amount granted to the Right Revd. J. M. Thoburn, D.D., to assist in the distribution of the Grain ex. S.S. "City of Everett," from the United States of America							20,000	0 0
	„ Amount paid to Reuter's Telegram Company, Limited							5,726	14 9
	„ Amount remitted to Miss Marston, Zenana Mission, Lucknow, to be expended in the purchase of Saries, as expressly desired by the donor							270	8 8
	„ Amount paid to the Pioneer Press for circulating the monthly Subscription Lists to the subscribers to the "Pioneer"							828	2 0
	„ Amount paid for Carriage, etc., on Gifts in kind to various stations in India							1,748	0 6
	„ Amount transferred from the Fund for Office Expenses, Stationery, etc.							5,500	0 0
	„ Miscellaneous							19	1 0
	„ Amount paid for 3½ per cent. Government Paper, of the nominal value of Rupees 6 lakhs, being the amount reserved for the maintenance of Orphans after the Famine							5,93,565	14 10
	„ Balance with the Bank of Bengal							92,562	10 2
							TOTAL ₹	1,43,00,385	4 6

* The sum of ₹75,000 has since been returned by the Bengal Committee.

LOVELOCK & LEWES,
Chartered Accountants,
Treasurers, Indian Famine
Charitable Relief Fund.

APPENDIX.

Dr. *Statement showing the combined Accounts of the Central, Pro*

RECEIPTS.

	R	a.	p.
To total amount of subscriptions received by the Central Executive Committee	1,40,69,026	8	1
„ Local subscriptions received by Provincial and District Committees	18,62,243	6	7
„ Miscellaneous	1,50,550	7	8
TOTAL R .	1,60,81,820	6	4

E *(see page 106).*

vincial and District Committees up to the 31st July 1897. Cr.

EXPENDITURE.

							₹	*a.*	*p.*
By amount expended under Object			I	.	.	.	6,68,592	11	8
„	ditto	ditto	II	.	.	.	21,710	13	10
„	ditto	ditto	III	.	.	.	15,53,411	13	7
„	ditto	ditto	IV	.	.	.	66,38,767	9	8
„ Miscellaneous expenditure :—									
(1) Central Committee				.	.	.	*14,549	9	2
(2) Provincial and District Committees							1,14,121	13	0
								1,28,671	6	2
TOTAL EXPENDITURE						.		90,11,154	6	11
„ Closing Balances :—									
(1) With Central Committee				.	.		†6,38,281	10	4
(2) With Provincial Committees					.		27,96,830	1	5
(3) With District Committees				.	.		36,35,554	3	8
								70,70,665	15	5
TOTAL ₹						.		1,60,81,820	6	4

* This amount includes ₹2,968·12 expended on Blankets for the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

† Includes ₹6,00,000 reserved for Orphans and since invested.

APPENDIX F *(See Part II, page 44.)*

Cash Account of Provincial Committees from the commencement of operations up to 31st July 1897.

RECEIPTS.

Names of Provincial Committees.	Remittances from Central Committee.			Local subscriptions for the Province.			Other Receipts (Miscellaneous).			Totals.		
	R	a.	p.	R	a.	p.	R	a.	p.	R	a.	p.
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	45,93,687	2	1	4,52,212	10	10	1,287	15	5	50,47,187	12	4
Central Provinces	30,07,038	8	0	76,693	10	2	34,061	8	7[1]	31,17,793	10	9
Bengal	18,64,709	2	6	4,49,873	6	11	79,907	13	6[2]	23,94,490	6	11
Bombay	11,94,250	0	0	2,59,794	9	4	2,272	7	4	14,56,317	0	8
Madras	11,64,877	8	0	2,07,253	9	8	12,109	10	1[3]	13,84,240	11	9
Punjab	9,06,583	0	0	2,28,367	3	10	20,616	6	0	11,55,566	9	10
Central India	3,25,050	0	0	67,268	13	0	259	6	9[4]	3,92,578	3	9
Burmah	2,25,000	0	0	43,387	15	1	.....			2,68,387	15	1
Berar	90,000	0	0	77,391	7	9	35	4	0	1,67,426	11	9
Rajputana	25,000	0	0	.....			.....			25,000	0	0
Baluchistan	20,000	0	0	.....			.....			20,000	0	0
TOTALS . Rs.	1,34,16,195	4	7	18,62,243	6	7	1,50,550	7	8	1,54,28,989	2	10

(1) Includes some advances recovered.
(2) Includes R2,500, unexpended balance of Bengal Distress Fund, allowed to be retained by the Commissioner of the Orissa Division.
(3) This includes the sum of R11,475-10-3, balance of the Famine Relief Fund, 1877.
(4) This amount includes R56, the opening balance.

APPENDIX F.

Cash Account of Provincial Committees from the commencement of operations up to 31st July 1897.

EXPENDITURE.

Names of Provincial Committees.	Under Object I.	Under Object II.	Under Object III.	Under Object IV.	Miscellaneous.	Total Expenditure.	Closing Balances.		Totals.
							With Provincial Committees.	With District Committees.	
	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.
N.-W. Provinces and Oudh	2,14,383 9 2	7,157 5 10	7,01,902 5 4	30,12,839 7 5	7,816 2 7	39,44,098 14 4	4,31,704 9 3	6,71,384 4 9	50,47,187 12 4
Central Provinces	1,06,957 1 1[5]	...	78,954 2 11	18,41,705 4 11	5,202 6 2	20,32,818 15 1	8,26,991 9 3[6]	2,57,983 2 5	31,17,793 10 9
Bengal	89,629 0 1	10,613 6 5	4,92,946 7 11	2,16,400 11 8	53,575 5 10	8,63,164 15 11	5,22,471 13 3[7]	10,08,853 9 9	23,94,490 6 11
Bombay	1,06,536 0 9	1,002 11 5	50,558 6 7	3,13,296 7 8	11,364 2 11	4,82,757 13 4	7,431 4 1	9,66,127 15 3	14,56,317 0 8
Madras	88,942 7 7[8]	...	...	2,87,695 10 5	3,942 15 9	3,80,581 1 9	7,79,490 11 3	2,24,168 14 9[9]	13,84,240 11 9
Punjab	2,757 15 9	785 9 0	1,87,328 9 5	5,72,869 12 3	7,378 12 8	7,71,120 11 1	10,256 6 9	3,74,189 8 0	11,55,566 9 10
Central India	14,230 9 3	209 11 0	14,381 5 6	2,03,894 1 0	23,400 6 0	2,56,116 0 9	1,15,380 13 6	21,081 5 6	3,92,578 3 9
Burmah	7,211 0 0	...	375 0 0	1,47,514 14 0	187 3 0	1,55,288 1 0	67,102 14 1	45,997 0 0	2,68,387 15 1
Berar	34,139 9 8	1,601 1 6	26,965 7 11	40,174 3 11	1,209 11 4	1,04,090 2 4	10,000 0 0	53,336 9 5	1,67,426 11 9
Rajputana	3,805 6 4	341 0 8	...	2,377 0 5	44 10 9	6,568 2 2	6,000 0 0[10]	12,431 13 10	25,000 0 0
Baluchistan	...	...	...	...	...	...	20,000 0[11]	...	20,000 0 0
TOTALS R	6,68,592 11 8	21,710 13 10	15,53,411 13 7	66,38,767 9 8	1,14,121 13 0	89,96,604 13 9	27,96,830 1 5	36,35,554 3 8[12]	1,54,28,989 2 10

(5) The Central Provinces Committee in their account state that the sum of R1,06,957-1-1 has been expended on Objects I and II, but no separate classification has been kept.
(6) Includes R25,000 entrusted to Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division, for relief in the Feudatory States.
(7) Includes R4,87,100 entrusted to Commissioners of Divisions for distribution. The Bengal Committee has since returned R75,000 to the Central Committee, for urgent expenditure required in other provinces.
(8) Reported by the Committee as expended under Objects I and III together.
(9) Of this amount the sum of R18,016-11-7 was in the hands of District Officers.
(10) This amount is with the Agent to the Governor-General.
(11) Up to the end of July none of this money had been expended, as it had only been allotted by the Central Committee in July.
(12) For particulars *see* Sub-Appendix F.

SUB-APPENDIX F.

Subsidiary to Appendix F.

Details of closing balances with District Committees on the 31st July 1897.

Province.	District.	Closing balance. ₹ a. p.	Totals. ₹ a. p.
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Dehra Dun	4,128 0 6	
	Muzaffarnagar	243 1 5	
	Agra	1,504 9 5	
	Muttra	823 15 1	
	Farrukhabad	6,009 3 3	
	Mainpuri	248 3 0	
	Etawah	3,920 10 1	
	Etah	2,219 8 2	
	Bareilly	1,208 5 1	
	Bijnor	2,689 5 4	
	Budaun	212 8 7	
	Moradabad	3,837 0 3	
	Shahjahanpur	1,654 11 3	
	Pilibhit	2,435 3 1	
	Cawnpore	41,157 15 8	
	Fatehpur	25,587 0 9	
	Banda	1,87,999 12 11	
	Hamirpur	83,357 12 10	
	Allahabad	2,420 1 1	
	Jhansi	23,903 7 11	
	Jalaun	66,544 12 4	
	Benares	13,551 5 3	
	Mirzapur	17,509 7 0	
	Jaunpur	579 14 10	
	Ghazipur	1,103 6 0	
	Ballia	258 14 10	
	Gorakhpur	6,910 6 7	
	Basti	2,231 15 11	
	Azamgarh	10,680 14 1	
	Almora	1,710 13 6	
	Lucknow City	14,761 6 3	
	Lucknow District	2,759 3 3	
	Unao	7,556 14 11	
	Rae Bareli	4,395 9 9	
	Sitapur	3,329 0 11	
	Hardoi	25,266 14 1	
	Kheri	3,798 1 9	
	Fyzabad	6,772 9 3	
	Gonda	2,298 4 4	
	Sultanpur	1,983 11 2	
	Partabgarh	5,945 2 9	
	Bara Banki	5,875 0 4	
	Total North-Western Provinces and Oudh.		6,71,384 4 9
	Carried forward, ₹		6,71,384 4 9

Province.	District.	Closing balance. ₹ a. p.	Totals. ₹ a. p.
	Brought forward, ₹		6,71,384 4 9
Central Provinces.	Nagpur	36,517 15 2	
	Bhandara	625 4 7	
	Chanda	5,239 7 11	
	Wardha	2,546 9 0	
	Balaghat	2,899 0 0	
	Raipur	10,957 12 3	
	Bilaspur	15,615 7 11	
	Jabalpur	15,716 13 10	
	Saugor	4,722 3 4	
	Damoh	10,634 15 3	
	Mandla	10,370 14 10	
	Seoni	12,865 15 8	
	Hoshungabad	40,218 2 9	
	Chhindwara	1,061 7 3	
	Narsingpur	82,989 11 2	
	Betul	183 15 10	
	Nimar	4,817 5 8	
	Total Central Provinces		2,57,983 2 5
Bengal	Burdwan	4,708 11 3	
	Birbhum	3,751 2 0	
	Bankura	6,275 1 6	
	Midnapore	4,049 10 3	
	Hooghly	2,001 13 3	
	Howrah	1,024 7 0	
	24-Parganas	5,364 13 0	
	Nadia	11,546 2 3	
	Murshidabad	8,404 4 0	
	Jessore	4,022 10 10	
	Khulna	20,727 7 1	
	Rajshahi	8,524 2 10½	
	Dinajpur	2,449 7 6	
	Jalpaiguri	5,273 4 9	
	Darjeeling	*Nil.*	
	Rangpur	1,598 11 3	
	Bogra	3,395 3 0	
	Pabna	4,255 6 10½	
	Dacca	1,189 15 0	
	Mymensingh	4,338 4 1	
	Faridpur	2,196 14 3	
	Backergunge	*Nil.*	
	Tippera	725 1 2	
	Noakhali	9,282 4 0	
	Chittagong	5,882 7 7½	
	Patna	4,740 12 7½	
	Gaya	1,785 2 1	
	Carried forward, ₹	1,27,513 3 6	9,29,367 7 2

Province.	District.	Closing balance.			Totals.		
		₹	a.	p.	₹	a.	p.
	Brought forward, ₹	1,27,513	3	6	9,29,367	7	2
Bengal—*contd.*	Shahabad	59,035	2	9			
	Saran	1,56,205	3	8			
	Champaran	1,13,634	15	2			
	Mozaffarpur	1,58,549	13	4			
	Darbhanga	2,76,943	3	6			
	Monghyr	11,365	12	3			
	Bhagalpur	7,727	15	0			
	Purnea	1,615	8	3			
	Malda	2,943	15	6			
	Sonthal Parganas	11,894	9	10			
	Cuttack	8,381	7	6			
	Balasore	*Nil.*					
	Puri	10,542	13	2			
	Hazaribagh	7,240	10	6			
	Lohardaga	23,730	13	3			
	Palamau	26,063	1	4			
	Manbhum	3,217	0	3			
	Singbhum	2,248	5	0			
	Total Bengal				10,08,853	9	9
Bombay	Sholapur	2,28,499	12	5			
	Bijapur	2,82,427	8	0			
	Ahmednagar	2,80,583	11	5			
	Khandeish	850	0	0			
	Nasik	70,029	12	5			
	Satara	45,090	13	11			
	Poona	47,199	1	8			
	Belgaum	8,147	6	3			
	Dharwar	834	8	2			
	Ratnagiri	1,324	5	0			
	Thana	1,141	0	0			
	Total Bombay				9,66,127	15	3
Madras	Ganjam	3,339	11	10			
	Vizagapatam	1,050	0	0			
	Bellary	54,025	11	0			
	Cuddapah	68,976	0	4			
	Anantapur	18,371	4	6			
	Kurnool	60,389	7	6			
	In the hands of District Officer	18,016	11	7			
	Total Madras				2,24,168	14	9
	Carried forward, ₹				31,28,517	14	11

Province.	District.	Closing balance. ₹ a. p.	Totals. ₹ a. p.
	Brought forward, ₹		31,28,517 14 11
Punjab	Hissar	52,635 14 4	
	Rohtak	14,625 1 10	
	Delhi	25,820 4 5	
	Karnal	15,730 2 8	
	Umballa	1,982 0 9	
	Hushiarpore	949 8 0	
	Loodhiana	10,922 4 3	
	Ferozepore	40,399 9 5	
	Jhang	16,263 9 3	
	Montgomery	12,310 0 0	
	Lahore	92,088 4 6	
	Amritsar	1,438 14 6	
	Gurdaspore	1,217 0 9	
	Gujrat	45,879 13 11	
	Gujranwala	12,552 9 9	
	Shahpore	140 0 0	
	Jhelum	6,894 13 8	
	Rawulpindi City	4,105 9 8	
	Do. District	5,295 10 5	
	Bannu	99 15 3	
	Mozaffargarh	1,242 1 6	
	Other Districts	11,596 3 2	
	Total Punjab		3,74,189 8 0
Central India	Bundelkhand	11,177 0 9	
	Bhopal	7,563 14 0	
	Baghelkhand	1,340 6 9	
	Bhopawar	1,000 0 0	
	Total Central India		21,081 5 6
Burmah	Yamethin	1,154 14 0	
	Meiktila	2,067 10 0	
	Myingyan	42,774 8 0	
	Total Burmah		45,997 0 0
Berar	Akola	22,286 9 4	
	Buldana	4,854 9 10	
	Ellichpur	2,258 14 2	
	Melghat	4,690 6 2	
	Wun	3,371 8 9	
	Bassein	7,864 2 9	
	Amraoti	8,010 6 5	
	Total Berar		53,336 9 5
Rajputana	Jaisalmer State	6,622 15 7	
	Tonk State	5,808 14 3	
	Total Rajputana		12,431 13 10
	GRAND TOTAL, RUPEES		36,35,554 3 8

APPENDIX G.

FAMINE PRICES,

as illustrated by a comparison between the Retail Prices for the 1st half of May 1897 and the normal prices, stated in seers and chittacks per Rupee.*

PROVINCES AND DISTRICTS.	Articles.	1st half of May 1897.		Normal price as stated by Collectors, Deputy Commissioners, or Political Agents. From		To		REMARKS BY COLLECTORS, DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS, ETC.
		Sr	Ck.	Sr.	Ck.	Sr.	Ck.	
BURMA—								
Meiktila .	Rice, common	9	14	10	12	16	4	
	Maize . .	14	3	34	3	51	6	
BENGAL—								
Nadia (Krishnagar) .	Wheat . .	9	...	14	8	20	...	Sr. Sr. Gram 20 to 23, normal price.
	Barley . .	...	...	18	...	24	...	
	Rice, common	8	3	15	8	18	...	
Champaran .	Wheat . .	9	...	16	7	12	...	Sr. Ck. Sr. Ck. Barley 26 14 to 18 0, normal price. Gram 20 14 ,, 17 3 ,, ,, The above may be taken as the normal prices at the dearest and cheapest seasons in the year, being based on the average prices for the five years 1891 to 1895. In an "ordinary good average year" the prices would be somewhat cheaper at any rate of common rice, which would then be about a seer cheaper.
	Rice, common	8	4	17	14	13	9	
	Maize . .	9	4	26	9	19	6	
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES—								
Allahabad .	Wheat . .	9	8	14	12	13	8	Sr. Ck. Sr. Ck. Gram . 27 0 to 21 4, normal price. Achar 23 0 ,, 20 0 ,, ,, Dál Arhar 16 12 ,, 15 0 ,, ,, ,,
	Barley . .	11	8	22	8	19	8	
	Rice, common	8	...	15	...	11	...	
	Jawar . .	10	...	24	...	21	...	
	Bajra . .	...	...	22	...	19	...	
	Maize .	11	...	20	...	19	8	
	Marua or ragi	...	...	27	...	21	...	
Banda . .	Wheat . .	9	8	15	8	...	...	Gram . 23 seers, normal price. Arhar (Dál) 17 ,, ,, ,,
	Barley . .	11	4	22	...	...	...	
	Rice, common	8	4	12	8	...	...	
	Jawar . .	9	12	23	...	...	...	
	Bajra . .	9	12	22	...	...	...	
OUDH—								
Lucknow .	Wheat . .	10	8	16	...	...	...	Sr. Gram . 20, normal price. Urd . 18, ,, ,, Dál Arhar 16, ,, ,,
	Barley . .	13	4	25	...	...	...	
	Rice, common	8	4	12	...	...	...	
	Jawar . .	...	...	25	...	...	...	
	Bajra . .	8	4	20	...	...	...	
	Marua or ragi	11	4	25	...	...	...	
	Maize . .	9	8	25	...	...	...	

* 1 seer = 2 lbs. 1 oz. avoirdupois (nearly).
1 chittack = $\frac{1}{16}$ seer.

Retail Prices for the 1st half of May 1897 compared with normal prices—continued.

Provinces and Districts.	Articles.	1st half of May 1897.		Normal price as stated by Collectors, Deputy Commissioners, or Political Agents.				Remarks by Collectors, Deputy Commissioners, etc.
				From		To		
		Sr.	Ck.	Sr.	Ck	Sr.	Ck.	
OUDH—*contd.*								
Hardoi	Wheat	11	8	13	12	17	12	Sr. Ck. Sr. Ck.
	Barley	14	...	17	...	21	...	Gram . 19 8 to 23 8, normal price.
	Rice, common	9	4	9	12	14	...	Arhar Dál 12 0 ,, 16 0, ,, ,,
	Bajra	...	...	17	8	21	8	Urd . 15 0 ,, 19 0, ,, ,,
	Maize	...	...	17	8	21	8	
	Jawar	...	...	18	8	22	8	
RAJPUTANA (EASTERN)—								
Tonk	Wheat	8	8	15	...	20	...	Sr. Sr.
	Barley	10	14	25	...	30	...	Gram . 25 to 30, normal price.
	Rice, common	5	8	7	...	8	...	
	Jawar	9	2	26	...	30	...	
	Maize	9	12	26	...	30	...	
RAJPUTANA (WESTERN)—								
Jaisulmir	Wheat	6	11	12	2	...		Only one rate available.
	Rice, common	7	3	9	11	...	...	
	Jawar	9	3	19	...	...	...	
	Bajra	8	8	16	11½	...	...	
CENTRAL INDIA—								
Indore	Wheat	8	12	16	7	13	12	
	Barley	10	8	20	...	22	10	
	Rice, common	7	...	9	8	9	...	
	Jawar	10	14	25	8	22	14	
	Bajra	9	...	18	12	18	6	
	Maize	11	4	31	...	25	...	
Gwalior	Wheat	8	8	16	4	...		
	Barley	10	5¾	27	...	...	...	
	Rice, common	5	13½	8	8	...	...	
	Jawar	9	13¼	24	12	...	...	
	Bajra	9	9	14	4	...	...	
	Maize	9	13¼	21	4	...	...	
PUNJAB—								
Hissar	Wheat	10	12	17	...	...	...	The harvests of 1890-91 were of an average character, and the prices prevailing in that year, being "normal" have been noted.
	Barley	12	12	24	...	...	...	
	Rice, common	8	...	9	...	...	...	
	Jawar	11	4	21	...	...	...	
	Bajra	9	8	20	...	...	...	
Lahore	Wheat	12	2	18	12	21	8	Sr. Ck. Sr.
	Barley	15	4	31	12	33	...	Gram . 28 12 to 30, normal price.
	Rice, common	7	2	9	8	12	4	
	Jawar	10	...	27	4	29	...	
	Bajra	9	2	17	4	18	4	
	Maize	7	4	27	...	28	...	

Retail Prices for the 1st half of May 1897 compared with normal prices—continued.

Provinces and Districts.	Articles.	1st half of May 1897.		Normal price as stated by Collectors, Deputy Commissioners, or Political Agents. From		To		Remarks by Collectors, Deputy Commissioners, etc.
		Sr.	Ck.	Sr.	Ck.	Sr.	Ck.	
Punjab—*contd.*								
Delhi	Wheat	10	14	16	...	17	...	Sr. Sr. Gram . 24 to 25, normal price.
	Barley	13	8	24	...	25	...	
	Rice, common	8	8	12	...	13	...	
	Jawar	10	...	22	...	25	...	
	Bajra	8	4	19	...	20	...	
	Maize	10	...	21	...	22	...	
Ambala	Wheat	11	8	21*	...	...	...	* Average of 1893-94, 1894-95 and 1895-96, which were ordinary good average years.
	Barley	12	...	25	...	...	...	
	Rice, common	8	...	7	8	...	...	
	Jawar	12	...	23	...	...	...	
	Bajra	10	...	18	...	...	...	
	Maize	12	...	25	...	...	...	
Bombay—								
Sholapur	Wheat	7	7	14	14⅜	18	10	
	Rice, common	8	5	11	11⅛	12	7	
	Jawar	11	10	25		30	13	
	Bajra	8	15	20	14⅜	23	11	
Bijapur	Wheat	7	9	19	8	20	7	
	Rice, common	9	...	10	15	11	6	
	Jawar	11	11	23	6	32	6	
	Bajra	7	15	22	15	28	3	
Poona	Wheat	6	15	13	15	15	2	Sr. Ck. Sr. Ck. Barley 14 4 to 18 1, normal price.
	Rice, common	7	3	10	13	10	13	
	Jawar	9	6	18	13	22	5	
	Bajra	8	1	14	15	18	6	
	Marua or ragi	...	...	14	13	15	13	
Central Provinces—								
Nagpur	Wheat	8	12	14	8	18	4	
	Rice, common	7	8	11	8	13	8	
	Jawar	11	8	19	...	24	12	
Narsingpur	Wheat	8	...	13	8	16	...	Sr. Sr. Gram . 17 to 25, normal price. Kadoa Kutki (unhusked) . 12 ,, 14, ,, ,,
	Rice, common	7	2	9	...	11	...	
	Jawar	...	...	20	...	21	...	
Jubbulpur	Wheat	9	12	14	...	16	...	Sr. Sr. Gram . 18 to 20, normal price.
	Rice, common	8	8	13	8	15	...	
Balaghat	Wheat	8	...	17	1	15	...	Balaghat does not produce jawar, and it is not commonly used as food-grain in this district. Common rice is the staple food-grain of the district. Wheat is the next food-grain in common use.
	Rice, common	7	...	20	...	15	5	
	Jawar	...	...	...	...	...	...	

Retail Prices for the 1st half of May 1897 compared with normal prices—concluded.

Provinces and Districts.	Articles.	1st half of May 1897.		Normal price as stated by Collectors, Deputy Commissioners, or Political Agents.				Remarks by Collectors, Deputy Commissioners, etc.
				From		To		
		Sr.	Ck.	Sr.	Ck.	Sr.	Ck.	
Central Provinces—*contd.*								
Raipur	Wheat	9	...	17	...	26	8	From 1883 to 1886, prices were—
	Rice, common	8	...	16	...	18	8	Maxm. Minm. Average.
								Wheat . 34·62 23·46 28·83
								Rice . 32·04 23·45 25·75
Berar—								
Akola	Wheat	7	8	*15	...	14	8	*1st sort.
				†16	...	15	6	†2nd ,,
	Rice, common	6	8	8	6	8	10	
	Jawar	11	...	*20	...	20	1	
				†21	3	20	12	
Amraoti	Wheat	7	8	12	...	16	...	
	Rice, common	6	...	8	...	10	...	
	Jawar	9	8	16	...	20	...	
	Bajra	8	...	12	...	16	...	
Madras—								
Bellary	Rice, common	8	10	12·4*	...	12 7*	...	*Second sort.
	Jawar	11	10	25·4	...	29·4	...	The prices are the averages of the 10 years ending Fasli 1305, excluding years of abnormally high prices.
	Marua or ragi	16	8	33·9	...	35·7	...	
Karnul	Rice, common	8	10	12	...	10	...	Sr. Sr.
	Jawar	13	6	25 &24	...	21 &20	...	Maize (Makki) . 25 to 20, normal price.
								Gram . . 33 ,, 26 ,, ,,
								32 & 20
								30
								29
								&
								28
Ganjam	Rice, common	9	...	18·2	...	16·5	...	
	Marua or ragi	12	...	30·1	...	25·3	...	

APPENDIX H.

Vide page 25 of Report.

Returns of the number of persons on relief in districts affected by scarcity.

(*Taken from the Gazette of India.*)

Return of the number of persons on

No.	Names of Provinces and Districts.	Area.	Population.	For the week ending the 6th February 1897.		
				Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.
	Madras.					
1	Cuddapah	8,723	1,272,072	2,325	6,638	8,963
2	Kurnool	7,514	817,811	3,620	263	3,883
3	Bellary	5,713	880,950	22,860	2,853	25,713
4	Anantapur	5,461	727,725	3,306	373	3,679
5	Ganjam	8,369	1,896,803		125	125
6	Vizagapatam	17,242	2,802,992	...	...	...
7	Godavari	7,857	2,078,782	...	...	...
	Total Madras	60,879	10,477,135	32,111	10,252	42,363
	Bombay.					
1	Bijapur	5,668	7,96,339	76,507	4,932	81,439
2	Sholapur	4,542	750,689	83,482	3,729	87,211
3	Ahmednagar	6,589	888,755	48,253	27	48,280
4	Poona	5,352	1,067,800	25,032	2,273	27,305
5	Nasik	5,940	843,582	31,098	57	31,155
6	Satara	4,987	1,225,989	23,360	6	23,366
7	Khandesh	9,943	1,434,716	22,464	...	22,464
8	Belgaum	4,652	1,013,261	2,490	253	2,743
9	Dharwar	4,603	1,051,314	1,732	...	1,732
10	Ratnagiri	3,922	1,105,926	...	...	...
11	Kolaba	2,829	594,872	...	...	...
	Total Bombay	58,327	10,773,243	314,418	11,277	325,695
	Bengal.					
1	Champaran	3,531	1,859,465	97,149	5,808	102,957
2	Shahabad	4,373	2,063,337	2,274	...	2,274
3	Nadia	2,793	1,644,108	6,060	770	6,830
4	Patna	2,075	1,796,004	587	36	623
5	Khulna	2,077	1,177,652	147	21	168
6	Saran	2,656	2,467,477	13,811	12,070	25,881
7	Darbhanga	3,335	2,801,905	135,644	55,283	190,927
8	Muzaffarpur	3,004	2,711,445	6,911	1,703	8,614
9	Rajshahi	2,329	1,313,336	536	...	536
10	Bhagulpur	4,226	2,032,696	...	...	...
11	Palamau	4,912	596,770	...	...	...
12	Manbhum	4,147	1,193,328	...	...	...
13	Pabna	1,839	1,361,223	...	...	...
14	Murshidabad	2,143	1,250,946	...	...	...
15	Hazaribagh	7,021	1,164,321	...	...	...
16	Puri	2,472	944,998	...	...	...
17	Sonthal Parganas	5,470	1,754,196	...	...	...
18	Bankura	2,621	1,069,668	...	...	...
19	Singbhum	3,753	545,488	...	...	...
20	Lohardaga	7,132	1,128,885	...	...	...
21	Jessore	...	...	...	...	...
	Total Bengal	71,909	30,877,248	263,119	75,691	338,810

relief in districts affected by Scarcity.

For the week ending the 6th March 1897.			For the week ending the 3rd April 1897.			For the week ending the 1st May 1897.		
Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.	Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.	Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.
2,735	7,488	10,223	10,038	6,942	16,980	27,617	9,079	36,696
10,484	...	10,484	22,401	1,218	23,619	50,399	3,094	53,493
36,787	751	37,538	48,106	830	48,936	66,510	2,022	68,532
4,705	...	4,705	6,935	154	7,089	14,743	547	15,290
1,494	1,391	2,885	...	638	638	1,395	5,970	7,365
...	...	...	1,830	384	2,214	10,965	721	11,686
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
56,205	9,630	65,835	89,310	10,166	99,476	171,629	21,433	193,062
75,580	8,162	83,742	71,409	8,535	79,944	70,517	9,034	79,551
1,05,047	6,385	111,432	116,081	6,666	122,747	123,774	8,717	132,491
89,011	1,829	90,840	90,351	2,548	92,899	86,903	4,981	91,884
20,598	3,644	24,212	13,300	6,428	19,728	20,668	4,838	25,506
34,547	115	34,662	34,229	138	34,367	31,434	186	31,620
29,638	14	29,652	33,111	23	33,134	25,104	46	25,150
33,255	...	33,255	37,651	...	37,651	36,672	...	36,672
3,935	477	4,412	546	604	1,150	11,229	526	11,755
...	22	22	611	1,098	1,709	277	978	1,255
...	...	...	...	...	...	484	...	484
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
391,611	20,648	412,259	397,289	26,040	423,329	407,062	29,306	426,368
...	...	170,151	106,836	57,590	1,64,426	89,897	56,907	146,804
...	...	9,965	7,523	17,209	24,732	9,737	22,064	31,801
...	...	10,578	12,307	6,798	19,105	25,906	26,527	52,433
...	...	61	...	140	140	...	126	126
...	...	1,861	2,669	4,090	6,759	3,921	5,204	9,125
...	...	32,096	11,449	27,232	39,681	24,312	43,936	68,248
...	...	140,093	122,203	52,980	175,183	150,936	60,224	211,160
...	...	27,875	29,915	28,353	58,268	59,015	51,501	110,516
...	...	585	698	...	698	1,000	...	1,000
...	...	8,160	10,610	2,864	13,474	19,710	2,790	22,500
...	...	4,202	3,262	1,631	4,893	2,802	2,031	4,833
...	...	3,492	3,485	4,079	7,564	3,410	4,910	8,320
...	...	53	211	...	211	448	...	448
...	...	730	3,360	...	3,360	2,393	...	2,393
...	...	...	2,104	570	2,674	2,227	1,858	4,085
...	...	...	4,589	217	4,806	2,883	184	3,067
...	...	...	2,518	45	2,563	2,147	159	2,306
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
271,994	138,008	410,002	324,739	203,798	528,537	400,744	278,421	679,165

No.	Names of Provinces and Districts.	Area.	Population.	For the week ending the 5th June 1897.		
				Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.
	Madras.					
1	Cuddapah	8,723	1,272,072	48,946	16,152	65,098
2	Kurnool	7,514	817,811	92,093	11,190	103,283
3	Bellary	5,713	880,950	99,159	10,731	109,890
4	Anantapur	5,461	727,725	44,240	7,577	51,817
5	Ganjam	8,369	1,896,803	17,523	31,253	48,776
6	Vizagapatam	17,242	2,802,992	15,724	1,325	17,049
7	Godavari	7,857	2,078,782	500	...	500
	Total Madras	60,879	10,477,135	318,185	78,228	396,413
	Bombay.					
1	Bijapur	5,668	796,339	52,841	10,974	63,815
2	Sholapur	4,542	750,689	108,379	8,152	116,531
3	Ahmednagar	6,589	888,755	56,136	6,194	62,330
4	Poona	5,352	1,067,800	25,619	7,802	33,421
5	Nasik	5,940	843,582	25,488	629	96,117
6	Satara	4,987	1,225,989	11,296	195	11,491
7	Khandesh	9,943	1,434,716	23,177	...	23,177
8	Belgaum	4,652	1,013,261	12,403	580	12,083
9	Dharwar	4,603	1,051,314	612	997	1,609
10	Ratnagiri	3,922	1,105,926	262	...	262
11	Kolaba	2,129	594,872	298	...	298
	Total Bombay	58,327	10,773,243	316,511	35,523	352,034
	Bengal.					
1	Champaran	3,531	1,859,465	113,160	79,815	192,975
2	Shahabad	4,373	2,063,337	11,574	21,914	33,488
3	Nadia	2,793	1,644,108	31,167	60,160	91,327
4	Patna	2,075	1,796,004	...	...	...
5	Khulna	2,077	1,177,652	4,809	6,379	11,188
6	Saran	2,656	2,467,477	26,067	57,026	83,093
7	Darbhanga	3,335	2,801,905	157,137	78,662	235,799
8	Muzaffarpur	3,004	2,711,445	62,589	59,201	121,790
9	Rajshahi	2,319	1,313,336	360	...	360
10	Bhagulpur	4,226	2,032,696	7,287	2,750	10,037
11	Palamau	4,912	596,770	3,023	2,145	5,168
12	Manbhum	4,147	1,193,328	3,977	11,987	15,964
13	Pabna	1,839	1,361,223	679	15	694
14	Murshidabad	2,143	1,250,940	3,808	4,732	8,540
15	Hazaribagh	7,021	1,104,321	2,797	4,547	7,344
16	Puri	2,472	944,998	3,812	224	4,036
17	Sonthal Parganas	5,470	1,754,196	1,729	902	2,631
18	Bankura	2,621	1,009,668	5,347	3,521	8,868
19	Singhbhum	3,783	545,488	...	...	...
20	Lohardaga	7,132	1,128,885	...	...	...
21	Jessore	...	...	...	...	...
	Total Bengal	71,909	30,877,248	439,322	394,125	833,447

For the week ending the 3rd July 1897.			For the week ending the 31st July 1897.		
Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.	Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.
75,200	26,010	101,210	104,286	24,892	129,178
113,120	34,165	147,285	175,642	57,210	232,852
111,339	19,871	131,210	163,231	26,986	190,217
58,663	9,741	68,404	70,503	10,863	81,366
35,631	49,645	85,276	36,708	94,519	131,227
18,687	6,439	25,126	24,512	38,012	62,524
...	268	268	2,823	499	3,322
412,640	146,139	558,779	577,705	252,981	830,686
64,879	12,175	77,054	101,009	13,188	114,197
97,981	8,749	106,730	98,263	10,886	109,149
43,404	8,156	51,560	83,855	13,928	97,783
18,945	10,172	29,117	10,274	11,877	22,151
15,401	1,122	16,523	14,035	1,406	15,441
9,094	504	9,598	11,431	1,681	13,112
12,044	...	12,044	13,805	...	13,805
7,275	772	8,047	14,789	741	15,530
82	1,018	1,100	1,674	988	2,662
...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...
269,105	42,668	311,773	349,135	54,695	403,830
61,903	85,513	147,416	24,108	60,513	84,621
3,197	18,897	22,094	...	24,280	24,280
37,582	68,878	106,460	28,260	58,257	86,517
...	187	187	...	220	220
741	9,523	10,264	368	8,591	8,959
18,238	47,375	65,613	15,970	60,835	76,805
123,775	90,793	214,568	76,022	117,399	193,421
32,453	70,387	102,840	32,502	68,920	101,422
341	...	341	205	10,780	10,985
1,193	9,989	11,182	...	8,666	8,666
1,654	2,066	3,720	1,390	2,277	3,667
6,487	10,031	16,518	5,009	6,898	11,907
1,328	2,649	3,977	412	40	452
2,149	3,722	5,871	4,103	3,696	7,799
2,315	6,447	8,762	1,488	4,227	5,715
285	629	914	3,283	440	3,723
2,362	4,681	7,043	802	4,226	5,028
1,872	9,166	11,038	523	11,622	12,145
108	...	108	...	...	...
460	503	963	587	2,023	2,610
...	...	...	703	...	703
298,443	441,436	739,879	195,735	453,910	649,645

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	For the week ending the 6th February 1897.		
				Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.
	North-Western Provinces and Oudh.					
1	Agra	1,856	1,003,796	21,481	823	22,304
2	Etawah	1,694	727,629	12,607	2,394	15,001
3	Banda	3,061	705,832	135,482	17,381	152,863
4	Cawnpur	2,366	1,209,695	49,918	18,949	68,867
5	Hamirpur	2,289	513,720	49,619	10,382	60,001
6	Allahabad	2,833	1,548,737	162,928	20,423	183,351
7	Jhansi	3,587	683,619	40,987	6,019	47,006
8	Jalaun	1,477	396,361	59,178	21,516	80,694
9	Jaunpur	1,551	1,264,949	41,169	1,882	43,051
10	Gorakhpur	4,596	2,994,057	14,945	7,193	22,138
11	Lucknow	977	774,163	41,513	14,795	56,308
12	Unao	1,736	953,636	34,773	5,667	40,440
13	Rae Bareli	1,752	1,036,521	70,522	8,622	79,144
14	Sitapur	2,206	1,075,413	37,386	6,717	44,103
15	Hardoi	2,286	1,113,211	83,101	93,474	176,575
16	Bara Banki	1,703	1,130,906	24,009	3,069	27,078
17	Mirzapur	5,233	1,161,508	15,291	2,781	18,072
18	Dehra Dun	1,193	168,135	350	...	350
19	Bijnor	1,870	794,070	2,419	768	3,187
20	Moradabad	2,303	1,179,398	2,428	402	2,830
21	Bareilly	1,591	1,040,949	5,238	230	5,468
22	Muttra	1,457	713,421	8,429	1,032	9,461
23	Etah	1,737	702,063	707	1,783	2,490
24	Mainpuri	1,697	762,163	37	700	737
25	Farukhabad	1,719	858,687	1,867	2,242	4,109
26	Budaun	1,985	925,598	2,071	142	2,213
27	Shahjahanpur	1,744	918,551	2,436	1,885	4,321
28	Pilibhit	1,373	485,108	8,481	418	8,899
29	Kheri	2,963	903,615	2,614	190	2,804
30	Sultanpur	1,701	1,075,851	9,774	2,294	12,068
31	Pertabgarh	1,458	910,895	2,233	6,360	8,593
32	Fyzabad	1,707	1,216,959	8,942	4,284	13,226
33	Fatehpur	1,631	699,157	3,853	7,000	10,853
34	Azamgarh	2,147	1,728,625	3,906	5,241	9,147
35	Benares	1,009	921,943	666	950	1,616
36	Gonda	2,819	1,459,229	7,289	2,272	9,561
37	Basti	2,753	1,785,844	2,657	2,522	5,179
	Total for North-Western Provinces and Oudh	78,050	37,544,014	971,306	282,802	1,254,108

For the week ending the 6th March 1897.			For the week ending the 3rd April 1897.			For the week ending the 1st May 1897.		
Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.	Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.	Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.
25,571	6,783	32,354	7,992	8,342	16,334	13,425	7,752	21,177
17,379	2,960	20,339	1,396	2,970	4,366	1,522	2,725	4,247
172,599	28,439	201,038	168,674	27,692	196,366	165,489	29,985	195,474
99,478	19,847	119,325	12,052	10,974	23,026	1,196	9,487	10,683
44,855	15,627	60,482	74,976	14,945	89,921	85,886	20,416	106,302
151,760	29,034	180,794	116,389	29,511	145,900	198,826	44,206	243,032
57,939	9,447	67,386	65,476	14,317	79,793	49,195	17,095	66,290
91,862	10,259	102,121	66,302	11,825	78,127	107,472	25,648	133,120
59,903	11,370	71,273	21,598	9,531	31,129	14,720	14,448	29,168
38,478	6,164	44,642	28,191	9,816	38,007	11,630	11,136	22,766
86,434	21,047	107,481	36,597	23,074	59,671	20,958	24,177	45,135
48,917	11,174	60,091	12,109	11,551	23,660	5,910	11,400	17,310
78,753	12,105	90,858	25,824	13,277	39,101	12,608	11,932	24,540
46,537	21,170	67,707	1,224	6,214	7,438	228	3,999	4,227
118,867	25,947	144,814	52,435	27,155	79,590	102,863	31,479	134,342
17,136	4,463	21,599	863	1,139	1,993	507	937	1,444
56,169	9,441	65,610	44,910	17,140	62,050	31,635	17,987	49,622
360	...	360	230	...	230	...	...	...
2,728	1,423	4,151	445	1,872	2,317	...	1,146	1,146
5,481	1,557	7,038	1,632	2,866	4,498	...	2,506	2,506
3,565	2,115	5,680	343	2,197	2,540	...	2,118	2,118
22,451	4,562	27,013	389	7,411	7,800	893	3,623	4,516
960	1,834	2,794	127	2,907	3,034	...	246	246
132	585	717	...	417	417	...	59	59
546	10,904	11,450	6	2,464	2,470	52	1,512	1,564
960	294	1,254	...	122	122	...	1,788	1,788
3,317	2,694	6,011	..	2,180	2,180	144	3,687	3,831
6,563	1,220	7,783	518	2,338	2,856	389	2,359	2,748
830	473	1,303	394	205	599	...	...	...
12,748	3,200	15,948	230	612	842	1,044	974	2,018
15,253	5,657	20,910	87	2,159	2,246	123	2,175	2,298
7,274	4,521	11,795	224	1,908	2,132	98	2,584	2,682
23,762	10,006	33,768	11,019	7,756	18,775	5,231	7,729	12,960
8,559	7,795	16,354	6,176	3,287	9,463	6,956	2,927	9,883
243	561	804	...	7,303	7,303	...	10,059	10,059
4,801	3,203	8,004	781	615	1,396	277	271	548
4,708	1,770	6,478	1,022	1,731	2,753	1,982	1,094	3,076
1,337,878	309,651	1,647,529	760,504	289,704	1,050,208	841,259	331,666	1,172,925

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	For the week ending the 5th June 1897.		
				Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.
	North-Western Provinces and Oudh.					
1	Agra	1,856	1,003,796	20,249	6,348	26,597
2	Etawah	1,094	727,029	1,698	3,536	5,234
3	Banda	3,061	705,832	257,312	40,164	297,476
4	Cawnpur	2,306	1,209,095	2,064	9,659	12,323
5	Hamirpur	2,289	513,720	105,195	22,362	127,557
6	Allahabad	2,833	1,548,737	278,915	50,809	329,724
7	Jhansi	3,587	683,019	78,071	19,350	97,421
8	Jalaun	1,477	390,361	105,442	18,246	123,688
9	Jaunpur	1,551	1,264,949	22,966	20,296	43,262
10	Gorakhpur	4,596	2,994,057	15,055	12,408	27,463
11	Lucknow	977	774,103	32,634	23,876	56,510
12	Unao	1,736	953,630	23,224	16,065	39,289
13	Rae Bareli	1,752	1,030,521	21,788	13,419	35,207
14	Sitapur	2,206	1,075,413	701	3,627	4,328
15	Hardoi	2,286	1,113,211	1,10,252	40,598	150,850
16	Bara Banki	1,703	1,130,900	1,022	1,033	2,055
17	Mirzapur	5,233	1,161,608	37,915	20,157	58,072
18	Dehra Dun	1,193	168,135	...	...	...
19	Bijnor	1,870	799,070	108	862	970
20	Moradabad	2,303	1,179,398	664	2,574	3,238
21	Bareilly	1,591	1,040,949	1,211	1,913	3,124
22	Muttra	1,457	713,421	3,333	3,190	6,523
23	Etah	1,737	702,063	5	1,404	1,469
24	Mainpuri	1,697	762,163	...	597	597
25	Farukhabad	1,719	858,687	85	2,465	2,550
26	Budaun	1,985	925,598	283	1,135	1,418
27	Shahjahanpur	1,744	918,551	533	3,158	3,691
28	Pilibhit	1,373	485,108	1,047	1,514	2,561
29	Kheri	2,903	903,615	706	123	829
30	Sultanpur	1,701	1,075,851	3,018	1,448	4,466
31	Pertabgarh	1,458	910,895	3,069	3,363	6,432
32	Fyzabad	1,707	1,216,959	...	2,289	2,289
33	Fatehpur	1,631	699,157	8,076	8,710	16,786
34	Azamgarh	2,147	1,728,625	13,506	5,569	18,075
35	Benares	1,009	921,943	1,479	12,268	13,747
36	Gonda	2,819	1,459,229	1,614	304	1,918
37	Basti	2,753	1,785,844	1,586	1,661	3,247
	Total for North-Western Provinces and Oudh	78,050	37,544,014	1,154,426	376,560	1,530,986

For the week ending the 3rd July 1897.			For the week ending the 31st July 1897.		
Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.	Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.
19,971	7,995	27,966	9,205	7,268	16,473
717	3,095	3,812	126	3,223	3,349
1,53,921	52,170	206,091	46,564	83,820	130,384
566	9,198	9,764	...	11,729	11,729
38,070	22,736	60,806	2,762	21,694	24,456
41,370	59,768	101,138	20,061	61,203	81,264
9,356	20,849	30,205	2,315	23,885	26,200
924	18,700	19,624	3,153	29,148	32,301
311	16,342	16,653	5,464	19,685	25,149
12,605	15,250	27,855	4,098	12,514	16,612
30,580	25,333	55,913	23,099	25,429	48,528
14,491	15,340	29,831	1,858	18,851	20,709
11,981	15,701	27,682	2,510	17,759	20,269
864	5,200	6,064	...	4,896	4,896
69,366	44,529	113,895	12,288	45,979	58,267
...	1,361	1,361	...	1,109	1,109
11,885	20,949	32,834	3,373	16,410	19,783
...	...	...	...	...	...
360	1,166	1,526	...	1,673	1,673
1,776	2,786	4,562	1	3,304	3,305
1 879	1,354	3,233	...	1,800	1,800
2,593	4,742	7,335	...	3,981	3,981
...	1,880	1,880	...	2,081	2,081
...	1,401	1,401	...	882	882
25	3,714	3,739	...	3,521	3,521
...	164	164	...	930	930
337	4,250	4,587	...	4,632	4,632
1,005	2,787	3,792	56	3,566	3,622
449	206	655	...	350	350
275	1,950	2,225	285	2,333	2,618
20	3,795	3,815	...	5,285	5,285
...	4,645	4,645	...	3,233	3,233
2,639	8,108	10,747	1,199	8,988	10,187
4,642	14,358	19,000	2,093	14,356	16,449
150	12,312	12,462	...	11,227	11,227
...	481	481	...	2,548	2,548
471	1,939	2,410	...	1,881	1,881
433,599	426,554	860,153	140,510	481,173	621,683

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	For the week ending the 6th February 1897.		
				Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.
	Punjab.					
1	Hissar	5,217	766,006	23,494	5,715	29,209
2	Rohtak	1,797	590,475	3,614	2,185	5,799
3	Gurgaon	1,984	668,929	1,552	37	1,589
4	Delhi	1,290	638,689	3,044	696	3,740
5	Karnal	2,660	683,718	2,351	114	2,465
6	Umballa	2,540	1,033,427	1,003	...	1,003
7	Ferozpur	4,302	886,676	2,080	228	2,308
8	Multan	6,079	631,434	302	...	302
9	Lahore	3,711	1,075,379	2,163	...	2,163
10	Sialkot	1,991	1,119,847	270	...	270
11	Gujrat	2,051	760,875	32,780	15,177	47,957
12	Gujranwala	3,039	690,169	217	...	217
13	Rawalpindi	4,850	887,194	112	...	112
14	Ludhiana	1,453	648,722	125	...	125
15	Jhelum	3,995	609,056	...	...	...
	Total Punjab	46,959	11,700,596	73,107	24,152	97,259
	Central Provinces.					
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	26,969	9,616	36,585
2	Damoh	2,831	325,613	18,923	1,905	20,828
3	Jabalpur	3,948	748,146	70,178	13,727	83,905
4	Mandla	5,047	339,373	14,260	882	15,142
5	Seoni	3,206	370,767	4,142	3,401	7,543
6	Narsinghpur	1,916	367,026	20,222	4,056	24,278
7	Hoshangabad	4,749	529,945	30,907	6,033	36,940
8	Nimar	3,357	253,486	683	67	750
9	Betul	3,824	323,196	11,619	688	12,307
10	Chindwara	4,630	407,494	4,950	1,843	6,793
11	Nagpur	3,831	757,862	1,312	830	2,142
12	Chanda	10,749	697,610	2,893	12	2,905
13	Bhandara	3,968	742,850	10,054	512	10,566
14	Balaghat	3,139	383,331	5,219	1,662	6,881
15	Raipur	11,724	1,584,427	7,658	1,377	9,035
16	Bilaspur	8,341	1,164,158	6,347	1,340	7,687
17	Sambalpur	4,948	796,413	...	...	...
18	Wardha	2,428	400,854	...	...	...
	Total Central Provinces	86,643	10,784,294	236,336	47,951	284,287

For the week ending the 6th March 1897.			For the week ending the 3rd April 1897.			For the week ending the 1st May 1897.		
Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.	Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.	Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.
47,100	2,928	50,028	54,818	5,921	60,739	51,989	7,599	59,588
3,423	2,992	6,415	7,090	2,546	9,636	5,635	2,221	7,856
2,402	81	2,483	1,494	460	1,954	718	156	874
2,603	959	3,562	1,084	840	1,924	625	726	1,351
2,152	4	2,156	10,606	1,742	12,348	3,552	2,190	5,742
4,030	618	4,648	3,490	162	3,652	919	181	1,100
2,245	...	2,245	1,802	...	1,802	159	...	159
135	...	135	99	...	99	7	...	7
2,173	...	2,173	2,265	...	2,265	245	...	245
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31,636	18,000	49,636	14,385	5,617	20,002	4	2	6
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
43	...	43	101	24	125	5,375	1,171	6,546
137	77	214	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
98,079	25,659	123,738	97,234	17,312	114,546	69,228	14,246	83,474
27,576	9,754	37,330	39,458	10,503	49,961	29,613	12,836	42,449
16,593	1,447	18,040	26,312	7,333	33,645	28,634	8,317	36,951
76,365	10,020	86,385	42,089	22,052	64,141	74,250	21,978	96,228
20,639	4,788	25,427	17,488	1,392	18,880	26,927	1,414	28,341
6,513	2,003	8,516	7,269	1,399	8,668	12,125	1,133	13,258
17,425	3,013	20,438	27,235	2,410	29,645	25,722	2,325	28,047
20,209	6,926	27,135	56,223	770	56,993	47,113	830	47,943
271	114	385	92	239	331	177	329	506
15,736	864	16,600	9,485	614	10,099	9,336	1,680	11,016
7,408	1,393	8,801	8,310	1,859	10,169	11,021	1,877	12,898
1,548	958	2,506	5,006	989	5,995	10,726	811	11,537
3,082	...	3,082	857	349	1,206	304	...	304
18,514	1,326	19,840	13,347	1,214	14,561	13,024	1,682	14,706
13,348	1,466	14,814	24,019	1,722	25,741	41,220	6,875	48,095
37,757	6,173	43,930	55,576	3,507	59,083	68,567	4,662	73,229
13,777	4,257	18,034	15,466	6,185	21,651	32,195	7,658	39,880
...	...	...	86	...	86	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
296,761	54,502	351,263	348,318	62,537	410,855	430,954	74,434	505,388

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	For the week ending the 5th June 1897.		
				Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.
	Punjab.					
1	Hissar	5,217	766,006	57,905	9,342	67,247
2	Rohtak	1,797	590,475	8,218	2,193	10,411
3	Gurgaon	1,984	668,929	...	...	...
4	Delhi	1,290	638,689	973	839	1,812
5	Karnal	2,660	683,718	6,159	1,358	7,517
6	Umballa	2,540	1,033,427	2,131	1,780	3,911
7	Ferozpur	4,302	886,676	360	...	360
8	Multan	6,079	631,434	...	...	...
9	Lahore	3,711	1,075,379	...	...	...
10	Sialkot	1,991	1,119,847	...	...	...
11	Gujrat	2,051	760,875	4,596	469	5,065
12	Gujranwala	3,039	690,169	...	...	...
13	Rawalpindi	4,850	887,194	45	...	45
14	Ludhiana	1,453	648,722	...	...	...
15	Jhelum	3,995	609,056	...	...	...
	Total	46,959	11,700,596	80,387	15,981	96,368
	Central Provinces.					
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	42,541	15,772	58,313
2	Damoh	2,831	325,613	41,924	12,099	54,023
3	Jabalpur	3 948	748,146	61,493	22,167	83,660
4	Mandla	5,047	339,373	29,850	3,119	32,969
5	Seoni	3,206	370,767	14,140	2,601	16,741
6	Narsinghpur	1,916	307,026	48,797	3,355	52,152
7	Hoshangabad	4,749	529,945	65,292	856	66,148
8	Nimar	3,357	253,486	374	512	886
9	Betul	3,824	323,196	18,261	1,880	20,141
10	Chindwara	4,630	407,494	14,827	2,054	16,881
11	Nagpur	3,831	757,862	17,296	749	18,045
12	Chanda	10,749	697,610	128	...	128
13	Bhandara	3,968	742,850	29,882	1,844	31,726
14	Balaghat	3,139	383,331	52,183	8,677	60,860
15	Raipur	11,724	1,584,427	99,368	12,472	111,840
16	Bilaspur	8,341	1,164,158	40,425	24,115	64,540
17	Sambalpur	4,948	796,413	1,009	343	1,352
18	Wardha	2,428	400,854	7,115	...	7,115
	Total Central Provinces	86,643	10,784,294	584,905	1,12,615	697,520

For the week ending the 3rd July 1897.			For the week ending the 31st July 1897.		
Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.	Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.
65,063	8,103	73,166	24,697	6,274	30,971
9,210	2,126	11,336	29	2,152	2,181
...	...	...	...	...	...
1,174	165	1,339	...	784	784
3,018	1,573	4,591	206	1,135	1,341
492	2,097	2,589	...	417	417
416	...	416	629	...	629
...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...
24	...	24	224	...	224
...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...
79,397	14,064	93,461	25,785	10,762	36,547
18,873	16,198	35,071	26,494	13,870	40,364
27,296	12,751	40,047	42,707	13,073	55,780
23,415	21,718	45,133	29,053	24,379	53,432
23,496	3,622	27,118	12,345	4,220	16,565
7,418	2,825	10,243	5,515	3,437	8,952
24,122	4,854	28,976	23,572	10,153	33,725
23,739	1,414	25,153	30,674	10,102	40,776
151	624	775	605	1,036	1,641
7,553	2,240	9,793	10,134	2,412	12,546
11,968	2,151	14,119	16,511	2,806	19,317
13,805	1,632	15,437	17,303	3,637	20,940
...	...	...	76	186	262
20,787	5,971	26,758	29,700	8,243	37,943
36,092	9,651	45,743	44,620	10,750	55,370
51,789	14,370	66,159	50,932	15,870	66,802
30,274	34,283	64,557	46,733	56,361	103,094
289	...	289	1,687	...	1,687
2,095	...	2,095	2,066	444	2,510
323,162	134,304	457,466	390,727	180,979	571,706

No.	Names of Provinces and Districts.	Area.	Population.	For the week ending the 6th February 1897.		
				Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.
	Burma.					
1	Meiktila	3,000	206,650	17,277	3,135	20,412
2	Myingyan	3,737	351,411	9,689	2,806	12,495
3	Yamethin	5,550	217,011	...	323	323
	Total Burma	12,287	775,072	26,966	6,264	33,230
	Berar.					
1	Ellichpur	2,623	315,798	...	...	...
2	Akola	2,659	574,782	..	...	...
3	Basim	2,956	398,181	...	...	...
4	Amraoti	2,759	655,645	...	...	...
5	Buldana	2,809	481,021	...	...	...
6	Wun	3,911	471,613	...	...	...
	Total Berar	17,717	2,897,040	...	...	...
	Hyderabad.					
1	Raichur	3,661	512,455	...	...	...
2	Naldroog	4,010	649,272	...	...	...
3	Gulburga	4,064	649,258	...	...	...
4	Bir	...	...	...	...	...
5	Lingsugur	4,907	620,014	....	...	...
6	Mahbubnagar	6,497	674,649	...	...	...
	Total Hyderabad	27,599	3,748,370	...	...	...
	Central India.					
1	Bundelkhand	10,227	1,508,053	3,476	1,508	4,984
2	Baghelkhand	11,323	1,737,606	50,006	2,376	52,382
3	Gwalior	25,846	3,482,351	11,696	...	11,696
	Total Central India	47,396	6,728,010	65,178	3,884	69,062
	Rajputana.					
1	Marwar	34,963	2,519,868	4,405	1,004	5,409
2	Dholpur	1,154	279,890	5,284	...	5,284
3	Bikanir	22,340	832,000	10,634	723	11,357
4	Jaisalmir	16,062	115,500	939	13	952
5	Kotah	3,784	526,262	1,034	...	1,035
6	Bhartpur	1,982	640,303	384	621	1,005
7	Tonk	1,113	198,934	...	...	...
8	Deoli	...	...	...	...	...
9	Bundi	2,220	295,675	...	...	...
	Total Rajputana	83,618	5,408,432	22,680	2,361	25,041
	Kashmir	...	...	...	...	...
	Jammu	...	...	455	...	455
	GRAND TOTAL FOR ALL PROVINCES	581,176	129,126,247	2,005,676	464,634	2,470,310

Week ending the 6th March 1896.			For the week ending the 3rd April 1897.			For the week ending the 1st May 1897.		
Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.	Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.	Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.
13,642	2,290	15,932	10,528	1,654	12,182	4,264	625	4,889
8,075	1,785	9,860	...	1,824	1,824	10,296	257	10,553
...	336	336	8,051	358	8,409	...	363	363
21,717	4,411	26,128	18,579	3,836	22,415	14,560	1,245	15,805
11,111	...	11,111	19,549	...	19,549	1,914	...	1,914
						10,423	1,230	11,663
						2,165	775	2,940
...	...	...	...	...	...	Not	reported	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	2,353	...	2,353
...	...	...	...	...	...	1,337	...	1,337
11,111	...	11,111	19,549	...	19,549	18,202	2,005	20,207
4,509	...	4,509	...	...	...	...	...	...
			4,543	...	4,543	18,744	...	18,744
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,863	1,863
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	190	190
...	...	...				...	...	...
4,509	...	4,509	4,543	...	4,543	18,744	2,053	20,797
23,473	5,657	29,130	Not reported		...	39,669	8,747	48,416
69,309	4,032	73,341	64,279	4,343	68,622	59,288	3,422	62,710
27,571	6,998	34,569	22,578	10,944	33,522	26,985	10,003	36,988
120,353	16,687	137,040	86,857	15,287	102,154	125,942	22,172	148,114
5,281	1,180	6,461	4,657	1,215	5,872	3,983	1,147	5,130
5,305	...	5,305	4,274	...	4,274	1,665	...	1,665
4,095	558	4,653	12,001	3,856	15,857	10,542	3,880	14,422
901	81	982	743	81	824	801	155	956
1,173	...	1,173	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	593	593	...	304	304	...	380	380
30	272	302	65	1,923	1,988	...	1,906	1,906
...	...	...	...	19	19	...	8	8
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16,785	2,684	19,469	21,740	7,398	29,138	16,991	7,476	24,467
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2,627,003	581,880	2,038,883	2,167,762	636,078	2,803,840	2,515,315	784,457	3,299,772

No.	Names of Provinces and Districts.	Area.	Population.	For the week ending the 5th June 1897.		
				Relief works.	Gratuitous relief	Total.
	Burma.					
	Meiktilla . . .	3,000	206,650	4,322	760	5,082
1	Myingyan . . .	3,737	351,411	10,290	2,542	12,832
	Yamethin . . .	5,550	217,011	...	363	363
	Total Burma .	12,287	775,072	14,612	3,665	18,277
	Berar.					
1	Ellichpur . . .	2,623	315,798	1,955	...	1,955
2	Akola	2,659	574,782	8,520	1,805	10,325
3	Basim	2,956	398,181	7,745	2,960	10,705
4	Amraoti . . .	2,759	655,645	2,069	1,052	3,121
5	Buldana . . .	2,809	481,021	3,522	...	3,522
6	Wun	3,911	471,613	844	...	844
	Total Berar .	17,717	2,897,040	24,655	5,817	30,472
	Hyderabad.					
1	Raichur	3,661	512,455	...	...	...
2	Naldroog	4,010	649,272	37,725	...	37,725
3	Gulburga	4,004	649,258	...	...	...
4	Bir	...	...	...	2,481	2,481
5	Lingsugur . . .	4,907	620,014	...	331	331
6	Mahbubnagar . .	6,497	674,649	...	...	...
	Total Hyderabad .	27,599	3,748,370	37,725	2,812	40,537
	Central India.					
1	Bundelkhand . . .	10,227	1,508,053	Not	reported	
2	Baghelkhand . . .	11,323	1,737,600	67,082	4,074	71,156
3	Gwalior	25,846	3,402,351	44,110	13,188	57,298
	Total Central India .	47,396	6,728,010	111,192	17,262	128,454
	Rajputana.					
1	Marwar	34,963	2,519,868	5,394	1,269	6,663
2	Dholpur	1,154	279,890	1,870	...	1,870
3	Bikanir	22,340	832,000	6,441	3,674	10,115
4	Jaisalmir . . .	16,002	115,500	1,524	95	1,619
5	Kotah	3,784	520,202	...	..	...
6	Bhartpur	1,982	640,303	...	346	346
7	Tonk	1,113	198,934	...	1,899	1,899
8	Deoli	...	...	...	8	8
9	Bundi	2,220	295,675	...	...	...
	Total Rajputana .	83,618	5,408,432	15,229	7,291	22,520
	Kashmir . . .	...	...	...	...	...
	Jammu	...	...	...	...	...
	GRAND TOTAL FOR ALL PROVINCES .	581,176	129,126,247	3,097,149	1,049,879	4,147,028

For the week ending the 3rd July 1897.			For the week ending the 31st July 1897.		
Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.	Relief works.	Gratuitous relief.	Total.
7,200	1,410	8,610	7,829	1,555	9,384
8,570	2,532	11,102	16,795	4,339	21,134
...	297	297	...	332	332
15,770	4,239	20,009	24,624	6,226	30,850
1,792	1,949	3,741	4,800	2,882	7,682
8,537	1,895	10,432	1,176	451	1,627
866	422	1,288	1,542	2,827	4,369
1,491	1,501	2,992	5,688	1,879	7,567
2,013	1,198	3,211	1,010	421	1,431
5,554	...	5,554	5,503	1,315	6,818
20,253	6,965	27,218	19,719	9,775	29,494
17,579	...	17,579	...	1,000	1,000
...	202	202	11,981*	916	12,897
...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...
...	448	448	...	602	602
...	71	71	...	15	15
17,579	721	18,300	11,981	2,533	14,514
47,446	7,528	54,974	21,371	6,941	28,312
61,414	4,720	66,134	22,943	4,872	27,815
30,500	10,497	40,997	13,135	7,752	20,887
139,360	22,745	162,105	57,449	19,565	77,014
5,932	1,342	7,274	...	1,255	1,255
1,517	1,179	2,696	1,342	1,270	2,612
4,890	2,34	7,231	4,502	306	4,808
1,502	409	1,911	125	207	332
...	...	...	...	...	...
...	367	367	...	412	412
1,924	2,227	4,151	2,492	3,462	5,954
...	8	8	...	8	8
...	307	307	...	298	298
15,765	8,180	23,945	8,461	7,218	15,697
...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...
2,025,073	1,248,015	3,273,808	1,801,831	1,479,817	3,281,648

* Figures of all districts included.

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